Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Respective media reported the sides' proposals and counterproposals for moving Israeli-Palestinian talks from a State Department corridor into a room. The Syrian spokesman saw peace as "still remote," Damascus radio affirmed, while an Israeli spokesman told Jerusalem radio that "it was not a good day for peace," adding that the Palestinian side was introducing "talk busters." The Israeli foreign minister rejected superpower intervention in the talks, the radio added. Hanan 'Ashrawi told the JORDAN TIMES that the peace process was in "serious jeopardy."

Iraq

Saddam Husayn demobilized a class of officers, according to Baghdad radio, which termed the move "a slap in the face of the base Atlanticists, who claim that the situation in Iraq is unstable and shaky." An Information Ministry official asked Arab journalists working for foreign media to leave, stating that the move would facilitate visa control, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Libya

A Justice Secretariat source questioned a Scottish court's characterization of the country's response to the Lockerbie charges, JANA reported. The foreign minister and the envoy to the Arab League commented on aspects of the case, in interviews with London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT and Cairo AL-AHRAM respectively.

Israel

Shamir and Levi commented on the repeal of the Zionism-racism resolution, Jerusalem radio reported. A State Attorney's Office termed settlement activity "not irreversible," Jerusalem radio noted. A regional commander ordered settlers in Ramallah not to commit illegal acts, Jerusalem radio disclosed; in remarks to Tel Aviv radio, Ari'el Sharon commented on settlers' actions previously described as a "rampage." All planes returned after attacking a "terrorist target" in Lebanon's al-Biqa' region, Jerusalem radio reported.

Syria

Al-Asad pardoned 2,864 prisoners convicted of committing "antistate security acts," Damascus radio reported. A Foreign Ministry statement broadcast by the radio criticized the repeal of the Zionism-racism resolution. In New York, the UN envoy asked that the body's vote on a draft resolution concerning the Golan be postponed, the radio disclosed.

Palestinian Affairs

An unattributed commentary by the mainstream PLO's radio urged jihad against the United States. The PLO's Shafiq al-Hut said the repeal of the Zionism-racism resolution "weakens the Palestinian people's confidence in Washington's role as a negotiator," Radio Monte Carlo reported. A commentary in Cairo's AKHBAR AL-YAWM urged replacing the "clown" 'Arafat as president of Palestine with Hanan 'Ashrawi.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani continued his visit to Khartoum, denying Western reports that Iran is moving its "terrorist center" from Lebanon to Sudan, Tehran radio reported. Tehran television later reported that the president returned.

Jordan

The government won a vote of confidence by a vote of 46 to 27, according to Amman radio, which also broadcast the prime minister's address prior to the vote.

Tunisia

The foreign minister granted the London paper AL-HAYAH an interview on the fundamentalist "threat."

Yemen

'Ali 'Abdallah Salih briefed Army officers on the "challenges" facing them, Sanaa radio reported, quoting him as saying that "military discipline should prevail." He added, the radio continued, that he supports immunity for Armed Forces and security service personnel against attempted defamation by some newspapers.

India

A spokesman reported on talks between the foreign minister and his PRC counterpart, Delhi Diplomatic Information Service noted.

Afghanistan

The president met with generals in anticipation of the end of Soviet weapons shipments, AFP reported.

Bangladesh

The prime minister's remarks to the nation on the eve of Victory Day were broadcast by Dhaka radio.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Sides Report Compromise Plans, Counterproposals

Jordanian-Palestinian Plan

JN1612190491 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1814 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] In a telephone conversation a short while ago with our media mission in Washington, our correspondent reported that the meeting in a U.S. State Department corridor is continuing. The Jordanian and Palestinian delegations have presented two proposals. The first provides that the three Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli chief delegates enter the official meeting room and meet for a specific period of time, after which the meeting would be divided into two tracks, a Jordanian-Israeli track and a Palestinian-Israeli track. The second proposal mainly concerns the principle of separating the two tracks. In accordance with this proposal, the joint delegation would meet [with the Israeli delegation] when there is a joint angle to any issue, and the meeting would be convened upon the consensus of the parties.

Delegates Comment on Proposal

JN1712073591 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Excerpt] The Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli delegations are today expected to hold their first meeting in their designated hall, after which the negotiations will divide into two tracks: the Jordanian-Israeli track and the Palestinian-Israeli track.

This expected situation comes after prolonged meetings held yesterday and last night between the heads of the three delegations in the corridors of the U.S. State Department. Our correspondent in Washington has the details.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Heads of the Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli delegations held an eighth meeting at dawn today in the corridor leading to the negotiating hall at the U.S. State Department in Washington.

Heads of the three delegations expressed hope, in statements after the meeting, that talks would be resumed today in the negotiating hall through the following procedure: First, the heads of the delegations will meet in the corridor, after which they will meet in one room. Later, the three delegations will meet together before the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations separate so that negotiations proceed along two tracks: a Jordanian-Israeli track, and a Palestinian-Israeli track. After the meeting Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation, told reporters:

[Al-Majali] We met for three hours this evening, as you know. We decided to stop exchanging views and proposals and to return to practical measures and to sit and speak in a practical way without the right of precedence [al-asbaqiyyah] to either party.

[Correspondent] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi [head of the Palestinian side in the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation] told reporters:

['Abd-al-Shafi] We delivered a reply to their latest proposal, which they presented at noon. We proposed that the delegation heads meet in the room and agree on the two-track meetings and the joint delegation meetings. We have not reached agreement yet and we will continue the negotiations at 0930 tomorrow.

[Correspondent] The heads of the three delegations—the Jordanian, the Palestinian, and the Israeli—held the seventh meeting in the corridor leading to the negotiating hall, where the heads of the Jordanian and the Palestinian delegations presented a reply to the Israeli proposal which they received last Thursday. The Jordanian-Palestinian proposal calls for two things: the first is simple, and calls for a meeting of the heads of the three delegations in the meeting hall. The second is more detailed and calls for a joint meeting to discuss procedural issues and other topics, after which the delegations would divide into two tracks: a Jordanian-Israeli one and a Palestinian-Israeli one. The heads of the delegations would meet to discuss essential topics at the request of all parties and not one party. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Israel: 'Double Diplomatic Booby Trap'

TA1612200591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari from Washington]

[Excerpts] The Palestinian delegation brought with them to the State Department a double diplomatic booby trap, which was designed to make it difficult for Israel to continue insisting on its demand to guarantee the status of the joint framework with Jordan throughout the entire negotiating process.

The Palestinians presented two formulas. One, which the Palestinians described as a short-cut formula, was meant to skirt the current disagreement over the future connection between Jordan and the Palestinian delegation. This formula called for a meeting only of the delegation heads inside the room rather than on the sofa outside in the corridor, and then immediately splitting into discussions on substance in the two separate tracks: the interim accord in the territories and the bilateral Jordanian-Israeli issues. Such an approach would actually force Israel to forgo its demand for prior agreement on stopping the Palestinian attempt to split away from the Jordanians.

The second proposal dealt with the details of the disagreement. It included a certain concession to Israel on the continued existence of the joint delegation; however, the Palestinian proposal does not invest the joint delegation with the powers Israel insists it have, such as the authority to convene upon the demand of only one of the parties, the right to endorse any agreement reached on the Palestinian-Israeli track, and so forth. Moreover, there is still no

agreement on how many members can sit on each committee; this issue is still open. [passage omitted]

Eli Rubinstein convened his colleagues for a discussion of these proposals. The moment of truth, in which it will no longer be possible to loiter in the corridor, is drawing near as far as he is concerned. However, he is neither authorized, nor does he want, to give up on the attempt to keep the Palestinians and the Jordanians bound together.

One of the difficulties is the fact that there is a great deal of argument within the Palestinian delegation, for example between Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the delegation, and Akram Haniyah, the PLO's overseer. Then there are those, like Harvard Professor Walid al-Khalidi, who are all for leading things to a dead end, and quickly. [passage omitted]

Compromise Proposals Rejected

TA1612202291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] The meeting between the Israeli and the Jordanian-Palestinian delegations ended in the corridors of the State Department a short while ago with no progress. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation, rejected the Palestinian-Jordanian compromise to hold a first meeting with the joint delegation but then to continue in separate work teams. Rubinstein emphasized that the proposal did not satisfy Israel because it did not guarantee the framework of the joint delegation.

The heads of the two delegations will meet for another meeting in approximately 90 minutes. The talks between the Israeli, Syrian, and Lebanese delegations will resume tomorrow morning in Washington.

Israeli Counterproposal

TA1712002791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Israel has just made a new proposal in a bid to move the talks from the sofa to the room. Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts is on the line from Washington:

The new proposal is very brief. Israel is simply proposing that all the procedures to be agreed upon after the lengthy talks in the corridor would only apply to the Washington talks and that new procedures be discussed when the negotiations are resumed.

So the latest Israeli proposal aimed at moving the talks to the room today is: Let us decide on the procedures for splitting into two delegations. These procedures would apply only to the Washington talks, and later we would discuss the matter once again.

We will now wait and see whether this maneuver works.

Jordanians, Palestinians Comment

JN1612204791 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] Israel continued its delaying and stalling tactics as corridor negotiations resumed at the U.S. State Department in Washington. The heads of the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations told reporters a few minutes ago that the talks appeared deadlocked after Israel presented more counterproposals to the Jordanian-Palestinian response to earlier proposals. They said another meeting will take place later tonight to see if agreement can be reached.

[Begin recording] ['Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation] As you could see, we met from 10 o'clock up to this minute. We presented the other side with a proposal showing what our idea about... [changes thought] ...to find a solution satisfying everybody. And the Israeli delegation took about three hours to discuss it among themselves. And they just presented us with a proposal which I had only a very, very quick glance at it. It looks to me that it is the same like what we had before. And I could not really put my finger on any new change in that proposal. So we are going to study this and we are going to meet this afternoon at 0430, hopefully that again we may find a solution.

[Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation] I am afraid I have to tell you that there is no progress. We handed the Israeli delegation this morning a counterproposal to their latest proposal, and also we made a new attempt to sidetrack proposals and counterproposals, then to get into direct meetings, trying to evade the controversy about the concept within the negotiating process. So it was a sincere attempt on our part to offer the Israelis two options, hoping that we can get out of this snag. I regret to say that the Israelis have just now handed us their ideas. Going through them quickly, it seems to me that there is no positive response. It is a negative response. And I am afraid that we are heading towards a deadlock. [end recording]

Syrian Representatives on Talks With Israelis

Al-'Allaf Says No Results Achieved

JN1612220391 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the second phase of the Middle East peace talks, has announced that, like the previous three meetings held last week, today's talks have not produced any result.

In a statement to reporters following the meeting, al-'Allaf said: The Israeli side is still refusing to advance even 1 inch, and it does not want to move on to substantive matters. It seems that there is an attempt to repeat the matters that they know will not move us forward 1 inch. Al-'Allaf added: For our part, we are still patient and, as I have previously told you, we are very patient.

Replying to a question, the head of the Syrian Arab delegation explained that the core of the talks is the principle of land for peace. The Israelis have to withdraw from Arab territories occupied in 1967. In return, we will do what we have to do within the framework of the peace equation.

Al-'Allaf also pointed out that the Israelis have not said anything about the issue of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories in any positive manner since the peace process began in Madrid. Replying to another question on the concept of peace, al-'Allaf said: The concept of peace was defined clearly by the UN resolutions and international legitimacy. We adhere to this international concept and are ready to do what we have to do.

The talks were adjourned until 1000 tomorrow, Tuesday, Washington time. [passage omitted]

Peace 'Still Remote'

JN1612170991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Washington—Meetings of the second phase of the Middle East peace talks resumed at the U.S. State Department this morning, Washington time, after a three-day suspension.

As he entered into the meeting, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation, said that although the peace process is ongoing, peace itself is still remote. He hoped that this week's meeting would be fruitful and that the Israeli side would abandon its policy of delaying and obstructing the holding of substantive talks. [passage omitted]

Kanafani: U.S. Intervention Would Help

NC1412103491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1245 GMT 13 Dec 91

["Exclusive" interview with Bushra Kanafani, spokeswoman for the Syrian delegation, by unidentified Voice of Lebanon correspondent in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Kanafani] What has taken place so far is sessions of talks that have had no results. As far as we are concerned, the peace process starts when occupation ends. The issue of land and occupation is the essential factor in the whole process. It is the proposed equation. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Let us discuss the U.S. role. Do you believe the Syrian delegation can get the Israeli delegation to agree to request U.S. intervention, knowing that the United States has said that its policy at this conference is not to intervene in the talks unless both parties agree?

[Kanafani] This applies to direct intervention in the negotiating room. The two negotiating sides must agree to call on the cosponsors of the conference, meaning the United States and the Soviet Union, to intervene directly. However, the role of the United States as the major creator of the initiative and as one of the cosponsors, in our opinion, goes beyond that. It should go to the point where it uses its influence on Israel to make it respect international law and UN resolutions and go along with U.S. interests in the region.

This is where the United States can play a role to render the peace process a success, and this peace process—the actual attainment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region—is in the interest of the whole region, the world, and especially the United States. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] When the Arab delegations first arrived here and at the beginning of the sessions, there was constant talk about Arab solidarity in these talks. Now we see that despite the fact that the Palestinians and Jordanians are a basic obstacle (?to you) in starting these talks, which have not yet officially started between them and the Israelis, the Syrians and Lebanese have actually started their talks. This suggests to us that perhaps the Arab solidarity they were talking about does not exist. How long can the negotiations continue on the Syrian and Lebanese fronts—and I am specifically asking you about the Syrian front—if the obstacles continue on the other front?

[Kanafani] There is coordination among all the Arab delegations here. The delegation heads hold constant meetings to follow up developments on the problem of how to hold the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, as requested by the Palestinian-Jordanian party. These developments are being followed up and action is being taken to reach a solution.

The fact that the Syrian side, and of course the Lebanese side, have entered the talks is something agreed upon since there are moves to solve the problem on the other track and constant talks and negotiations are taking place.

The Arab view here is that we do not want to give Israel's belligerence and intransigence regarding the presence of the Palestinian negotiating party the chance to score any gains from our withdrawal from the peace process at a time when it hopes the Arabs will withdraw. Statements by official Palestinian spokesmen have informed us that the situation has been [word indistinct].

We are following up developments on the Palestinian-Jordanian level. Some proposals have been made to resolve this issue and we hope it will be resolved in a way that will satisfy the brother Arabs as soon as possible.

[Correspondent] Do you mean proposals from the Syrian side?

[Kanafani] No, the proposals here....[changes thought] We are following up the proposals made by the brothers. There are Palestinian-Jordanian proposals and Israeli proposals. The heads of delegations are meeting to study these proposals. There are also external political contacts to resolve this issue.

[Correspondent] It is important for us, as Lebanese, to know whether there is any linkage in the progress of talks

between the Syrian and Israeli delegations to good progress between the Lebanese and Israeli delegations.

[Kanafani] You mean making any progress on the various levels?

[Correspondent] Yes.

[Kanafani] No, linkage on all fronts is not a requirement the way you present it. For example, the Lebanese-Israeli talks could progress on one level while the Syrian-Israeli talks do not progress. This is not forbidden.

[Correspondent] We mean the opposite.

[Kanafani] The opposite is also true. Regarding the Palestine question, it must....[changes thought] We were hoping and expecting the problems regarding the Palestinian-Jordanian side to be solved. The process is one of comprehensive peace, not partial peace on one front. The peace process we have just begun and for which the Arab delegations have come here has the objective of comprehensive peace in the region, a comprehensive settlement for the region. The Israelis are creating obstacles that we hope will be overcome soon. Linking progress in the talks between the various sides, whether Lebanese, Syrian, Palestinian, or Jordanian, is hampering the process. The important thing is the major objective, which is comprehensive peace in the region.

For us categorically to reject progress in the talks here because some aspects are more complex and have registered no progress is not acceptable. We want the talks to progress toward their final goal, which is a just and comprehensive peace; this includes Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967, the occupied southern part of Lebanon, and recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Israel, Syria Discuss Resolution 242

TA1612190191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1825 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Report from Washington by Gid'on Kouts]

[Text] The meeting with the Syrians has ended and another has been set for tomorrow. This is actually the only positive aspect of this meeting. The two sides left the room, and the delegation heads—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf and Yosef Ben-Aharon—reported that disagreement remains, although today's session was devoted to attempts to locate common points that will allow for some sort of rapprochement between the Israeli and Syrian interpretations of Resolution 242.

Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, who came out first, said: The Syrians are prepared to reach an exchange of declarations with Israel, namely that the moment Israel declares its acceptance of the formula of territories for peace, the Syrians will announce what they are ready to do in exchange. In other words, the Syrians did not even state their readiness to recognize Israel, although one could gather that the Syrian declaration will be in accordance with what is demanded by Resolution 242.

The Israeli side, or rather Yosef Ben-Aharon, says that an attempt to give such a reading of Resolution 242 is a simplistic approach. We are converting that resolution into a simplistic formula, because the implication is that what can be sold to Israel is territories, and what can be sold to Syria is peace. But peace is not merchandise that is up for bargain; peace can be (?judged) later.

The Israelis also raised the issue of the UN discussion over the repeal of the resolution equating Zionism with racism and tried to tell the Syrians: Here you have an opportunity to make a gesture. Well, that gesture was not made, leaving the resumption of the talks tomorrow the only positive story today. Tomorrow the parties will also have to decide whether the Washington talks will continue. Foreign Minister David Levi, who meets with the delegations tonight, Israel time, will presumably come up with explicit instructions on this.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1830 GMT on 16 December picks up remarks by Yosef Ben-Aharon, in progress. He says: "...unbalanced. There is no logic in turning peace into a subject for bargaining. Peace should be a goal common to both the sides, and later negotiations to delineate the borders should be held. He [the Syrian delegation head], however, did not accept this because in his thinking there is a linkage making peace and territories conditional upon one another, as he repeated when he spoke to you after this session. This is the root of the problem."]

Levi Rejects Intervention by Mediator

TA1712062191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi stated last night in Washington that none of our Arab interlocutors should delude themselves that they will prompt a behind-the-scenes mediator to intervene. That will not happen, Minister Levi stated in a meeting with members of the Israeli delegation to the peace talks and with Israeli journalists. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports:

Foreign Minister David Levi arrived in Washington last night. This afternoon he will meet with U.S. President George Bush in the White House. The soul of the political process lies in the political negotiations, Levi told members of the Israeli delegation. We have a lot of patience, and we are not losing anything as a result of the talks; we can only gain from them, he said. Levi stressed: We will not buckle under, and we will not accept anything with regard to the status of the Palestinian delegation beyond what was agreed upon on the eve of the Madrid conference, because as soon as we make one change everything will change.

Moreover, Levi said, we are not waiting with a stopwatch in hand, neither here in Washington, nor in Israel. We are in no rush, he said. Levi was asked when the

delegation will return home, and he replied: We did not come here to stay for good, and all things come to an end.

Another meeting is scheduled for today, and maybe at long last the delegations will start working in an orderly manner and move from the sofa to the chairs. It is important that this should happen before the end of the current round of talks, the foreign minister stated.

A few hours earlier, another meeting on the sofa ended in the State Department. Elyaqim Rubinstein later told us: It was a businesslike meeting, and some progress was made. No breakthrough has yet been reached, but the talks continue.

Netanyahu Accuses Arabs Seeking Impasse in Talks

TA1712060291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Report by Connie Lon in Washington]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Israel's spokesman Binyamin Netanyahu claimed it was not a good day for peace. He cited increased evidence of terrorism in the region, including the discovery of two Palestinian terrorists who had apparently blown themselves up accidentally with their own weapons. He said they had Syrian passports on them and claimed that it is part of the continuing pattern of terrorism in the region.

The Israeli officials were also furious with the Syrians, Lebanese, and other Arab countries who did not vote to repeal the Zionism-is-racism resolution. Yosef Ben-Aharon told the Syrian delegation that if they could not do that, they cannot say they accept the existence of Israel and its right to security. Deputy Minister Netanyahu said there had been high hopes for the talks at the start, but that appears to have been dashed:

[Begin Netanyahu recording] It was not clear to us, I suppose, at the beginning of the talks because we had hopes and perhaps let our hopes get ahead of what we were seeing, and we had hoped that there was a conduct here of talks in good faith to resolve differences in a mutually acceptable manner. It is very clear to me this afternoon that that is not the case. It is clear to me that the Arab side, in this case led by the Palestinian Arabs, not by the Syrians—we have problems with them, but led by the Palestinian Arabs and the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation—are engineering talk busters. They are raising talk busters, issues that they know will bust the talks. They are seeking clearly an impasse with a view to have that impasse, then bring in the United States—that is, they are obstructing the talks hoping the United States will then come in, thereby negating the very value of direct bilateral talks, which is the whole purpose of these Washington rounds. [end recording]

If the talks do break off later today, the timing could prove an added embarrassment. President Bush is meeting at the White House with Foreign Minister David Levi. It is possible one might witness the spectacle of President Bush courting the Israeli foreign minister while other groups of Israelis and Arabs at the State Department fail to reach a compromise and break off their negotiations.

Lebanese Delegate Wants Washington Venue

NC1712075791 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Michel al-Haj report from Washington]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Through the head of its delegation, Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, Lebanon has expressed its belief that Washington is the safest location for talks and closest to decisionmaking centers. Shammas added that his delegation is very pleased about holding talks in the U.S. capital. The Israeli delegation once again expressed its desire to move talks closer to Jerusalem. It further hoped the talks will be moved to Israel and Lebanon. [passage omitted]

On Monday afternoon, Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, secretary general of the Lebanese Foreign Ministry, held a meeting with Ambassador Edward Djerejian, assistant U.S. secretary of state, during which they discussed the peace talks. [passage omitted]

Talks To Continue 17 Dec

NC1612205591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] The fifth round of Lebanese-Israeli talks ended at 1945 today. Following the talks, Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, explained that the discussions are progressing in the sense that each side submits an idea and then the delegations discuss them together. The Israeli side submits its stand, the Lebanese side submits its stand, and then the two sides discuss the issues together. Shammas noted that the delegations agreed to hold another meeting tomorrow.

Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli delegation, stressed that everybody believes the atmosphere is good and the two sides want to make progress, however small.

'Ashrawi: Talks in 'Serious Jeopardy'

JN1712082691 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Dec 91 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporters in Washington]

[Excerpts] Having recessed for a long weekend, Arab-Israeli bilateral negotiations resumed with the issue of independent Palestinian representation again dominating talks. But after their first session Monday the parties did not appear closer to agreement.

The heads of the Jordanian and Palestinian teams met for two hours with their Israeli counterpart, Elyaqim Rubinstein, in the corridor of the official site at the State

Department, only to discuss proposals and counterproposals on how to solve the impasse over Palestinian representation in the talks. [passage omitted]

As the peace talks resumed on Monday, Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi told reporters the Palestinians would suggest "to have just the three heads of delegations meet in the meeting room and work out two consecutive meetings today—one Israeli-Palestinian and one Israeli-Jordanian."

The aim was "to get down to substance and not to get entangled in issues of disagreement," she added.

Dr. 'Ashrawi described the proposal as "the shortcut—the high road." If Israel wanted to tackle difficult issues, the Palestinians were willing to do so, again through a meeting of the three delegation leaders.

"We want... to break the impasse of corridor diplomacy, to sit down and overcome the procedural issues," Dr. 'Ashrawi said.

Dr. 'Ashrawi criticised the United States for staying out of the dispute last week but said she expected that to change.

"The U.S. side, and the Israeli side, have fallen under the pressure of time. It seems the United States will start a phase in which it plays a more positive and more constructive role than it was playing," she said. [passage omitted]

In its simple form, the first Jordanian-Palestinian proposal, or option, suggested that the leaders of the delegations meet in the officially designated room for a limited period of time to be followed by meetings of the two tracks.

"The heads of delegations, we feel, should discuss immediately what time, when and where the others should meet—the two tracks should meet and start working on substance, on the agenda and not get bogged down in more proposals and counter-proposals," Dr. 'Ashrawi said before the negotiators went to the State Department.

The essence of the second proposal, which was more detailed, contained and stressed the principle of the two tracks, but stipulated that the joint delegation could meet to discuss procedural issues only with the mutual consent of Arabs and Israelis. According to this proposal, leaders of the delegations could meet at any time to discuss whatever issues that need to be discussed.

"We do have a detailed proposal that talks about mechanisms and talks about further work and coordination among the three parties on the basis of the two track approach," Dr. 'Ashrawi said. "But, we feel if we start discussing all these procedural issues, then it is going to take a long time to get to the substance," she added in answer to a question on why two proposals were offered. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Ashrawi struck a pessimistic note after the Israelis refused to accept either of the proposals saying the peace process was in "serious jeopardy."

"We are quickly moving into a deadlock, we have a serious sense of dismay and we feel the Israelis are quickly pushing us into an impasse," Dr. 'Ashrawi told reporters in a press conference after the morning session. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Says Delegation Will Not Walk Out

JN1612112891 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Dec 91 p 19

[By Nabil 'Amr]

[Text] A ranking Palestinian official has affirmed that the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks in Washington will not walk out of the negotiations. The Palestinian delegation will continue to adhere to what was agreed on with the United States and the USSR before the Madrid conference, and to the invitation and letter of assurances which the Palestinian side received from the cosponsors of the Middle East peace conference, which stipulates that the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will be split into two delegations to discuss two tracks and dimensions—a Jordanian-Israeli track and Palestinian-Israeli track.

The Palestinian official, who asked to remain anonymous, said that the Palestinian delegation in Washington will not accept Israeli trickery aimed at turning it into a mere committee. The Palestinian delegation will not enter a negotiations room with the "Committee" sign hanging on its door. The Palestinians will continue to insist that their delegation represents the Palestinian people. Israel should deal with them on this basis. The Palestinians affirm that "The Palestinian and Israeli Delegations" sign must hang on the door of the room in which they will meet with the Israelis, as the case with the other Arab delegations holding talks with the Israelis; that is, the Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese delegations.

The Palestinian official noted that the talks might stop at the end of 17 December, because of the beginning of the Christmas celebrations in the United States and the world. He said he believed the next few days will witness progress in resolving this controversial issue between the Palestinians and the Israelis. The Palestinians consider this issue essential, because it encroaches on the Palestinian identity and Palestinian independence sought by the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian official said: The PLO has information that the United States will eventually intervene to put an end to these Israeli vituperations that could abort the Middle East peace efforts. He noted that the talks between the various Arab parties and Israel will stop until the beginning of next year.

The Palestinian official noted that Jordanian-Palestinian understanding and coordination vis-a-vis the separation of the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations to discuss the

Jordanian and Palestinian dimensions constitute Jordanian-Palestinian and Arab guarantees to foil the Israeli attempts aimed at bypassing the essence of the peace talks represented by achieving the Palestinian people's national legitimate rights and their right to self- determination.

In another development, AL-DUSTUR has learned that the PLO is now embarking on large-scale Arab and international moves to besiege the Israeli stand and deprive the Israelis of the opportunity of undermining the peace march. Palestinian officials are now holding contacts with a number of Arab and world capitals, particularly the EC capitals, which understand the Palestinian position and are dissatisfied with the Israeli position.

The Palestinian officials are briefing world leaders on the inhumane Israeli practices in the occupied territory such as settlement-building, aggressions against the al-Aqsa mosque, and seizing citizens' homes—the racist Israeli practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied territory that coincide with the intransigent stand in Washington. The Palestinian officials are explaining the effects of these practices and the Israeli stands on the peace march, and calling on world states, particularly European states, to adopt a decisive stand in support of international legitimacy, which the Palestinians call for, and on whose basis the peace conference began in Madrid.

Differences Among Palestinian Delegates Denied

JN1512140091 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0940 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] Washington, 15 Dec (PETRA)—Zahirah Kamal, member of the Advisory Council of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, has said that the Jordanian and Palestinian sides are still discussing the proposal presented by the Israeli side regarding negotiations based on two tracks, which will be announced officially.

In an interview with PETRA, she added that daily contacts are made with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Advisory Council in the Palestinian delegation, who is virtually heading the Palestinian negotiating team. She also said that there are continuous consultations with him on the presented issues and that this process confirms there is no truth in reports about a difference in viewpoints among the delegation members regardless of the positions of these members.

She added that this is a confirmation of our people's struggle. Al-Husayni stayed in the occupied territories because of conditions there. She noted that his decision to stay behind is positive and very sound in order to be with our people in the face of the occupation and to demonstrate that those who accepted the negotiating process are waging a battle and do not stay away from the struggle over territory. They are in fact working on the basis that our people's battle under occupation has two aspects: the aspect of struggle on the ground, and the political and diplomatic aspect aimed at reaching resolutions on what is achieved on the ground.

As for the latest events in Silwan, she said they confirm that Israel is not serious about the peace process. She added that everyday Israel imposes new realities on the ground and that the Silwan operation is obstructing the final solution we are seeking and contravenes the substance of the letter of invitation, which says no party can take measures to obstruct the final solution.

Mrs. Kamal said that the lack of Israeli seriousness is manifested in the current negotiations where it is exemplifying its hostility to the Palestinians as people.

She said: We consider the issue of recognizing a Jordanian and Palestinian delegation to be one of substance and not procedure because it deals with our identity and entity.

Palestinian Affairs

Repeal of UN Resolution 'Weakens' Trust in U.S.

JN1712152091 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] On behalf of the PLO, [PLO Executive Committee member] Shafiq al-Hut said that over the past two weeks, the United States has used a carrot and stick policy to achieve a UN resolution which repeals the previous resolution considering Zionism a form of racism. This act is something which weakens the Palestinian people's confidence in Washington's role as a mediator in peace negotiations.

Damascus has criticized the resolution, saying that it does not cancel the racist legislations and measures in Israel.

For his part, Faysal al-Husayni has said that the resolution does not mean anything as long as Israel continues to practice its aggressive, racist policy.

Spokesman on 'Jihad' Controversy at ICO Session

LD1412183891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] T e official Palestinian spokesman gave the following statement:

London AL-HAYAT published yesterday, 13 December, a fallacious and insidious news item aimed at confusing what happened during the final session of the ICO summit in Dakar. We would like to point out the following:

In the five-member committee, which stemmed from the political committee and which consisted of Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, and Palestine, it was agreed, with the attendance of the Senegalese foreign minister, to extract an important paragraph from the Holy Mecca declaration and add it to the Dakar declaration, which would be presented to the final session of the summit.

However, some Gulf countries interfered after the preparation of the declaration was completed and insisted on erasing the word jihad from the paragraph extracted from the Holy Mecca declaration.

This forced President Yasir 'Arafat to make two lengthy addresses about jihad as a basic tenet of Islam and Muslims, and about the necessity of not erasing the word jihad from that paragraph. In that he was supported by a number of delegation heads.

Brother Abu-'Ammar left the session in protest against the erasing of the word jihad and he put the responsibility of this grave action on the shoulders of those who were trying to disfigure the image of Islam and jihad.

A number of brother leaders and heads of African, Arab, and Islamic delegations asked brother Abu 'Ammar to cancel a news conference which he had called in order to expose this operation, which is considered as a grave precedence against Islam, jihad, and the Muslim, particularly as there are 72 koranic verses which instigate jihad.

Brother President Abu 'Ammar responded to that request and in line with their wish he returned to the conference hall, accompanied by President Omar Bongo and others in order to honor Senegal and its president, who praised brother Abu 'Ammar, the intifadah, and the Palestinian jihad in his final address which concluded the summit. President Diouf repeated in his address the emphasis on the Mecca declaration as an expression of the commitment of Senegal and the Muslims to that declaration and its inclusions, in spite of the attempts to violate it.

We have to record our pride in and appreciation of the resolutions adopted by the summit on the Palestinian issue Holy Jerusalem, the blessed intifadah, and the rejection of all U.S. attempts to cancel the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism, and also the other important resolutions adopted by the summit on the issues of all Muslims in the World.

We hope that all efforts will be directed toward implementing these resolutions in all areas and not, as some people do, toward violating the Dakar ICO summit by weaving such intentional lies and misrepresentations.

Commentary Urges Jihad Against United States

LD1612204191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Al-Aqsa and the Rock ask: Have those who called from Mecca for jihad in 1981 performed the right jihad in the cause of God in 1982? Have they prevented strikes against the revolution in Lebanon? Call for jihad! Have those who called from Mecca for jihad in 1981 supported the jihad of the blessed intifadah? And have they kept the covenant of Jerusalem, the first of the two Qibla's and the third of the holy mosques?

The American master orders, and they obey, even if their obedience is disobedience to the Creator. [passage omitted: Koranic verses on death, jihad]

The greatest jihad in God's eyes is a just word spoken in the face of an unjust sultan—and the unjust sultan in this era is America.

Call for jihad! O you who God has dignified with his face. As for us, the people of Palestine, we will continue fighting and practicing jihad until the final invasion. We will give back to the land its gifts, and return to history its face [as heard], and we will hang the spy of this era, which hides behind religion in an attempt to prove that patriotism is atheism, and that revolution is blasphemy against God.

You oil paupers have nothing left but to resort to jihad, jihad in the cause of God and the homeland. Call for jihad!

PLO Rejects Israeli Stance on Delegations

PM1512203191 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Dec 91 p 3

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "Al-Najjab Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: PLO Rejects Israel's Opposition to Palestinian Delegation's Independence at Washington Negotiations"]

[Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—PLO Executive Committee Member Sulayman al-Najjab has announced the PLO's rejection of the recent Israeli position opposed to the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation's transformation into two independent delegations. In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Al-Najjab emphasized that the transformation of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is agreed with the parties sponsoring the peace conference. So the United States must announce its position clearly with regard to this issue.

Al-Najjab pointed out that the PLO was not surprised by recent reports by Israeli political sources that Israel—on orders from Yitzhaq Shamir—backtracked on some of the autonomy agreements reached during Israeli-Egyptian negotiations in 1982. And that Shamir ordered the head of the negotiating Israeli delegation to draft new Israeli positions on transferring the affairs of local police to the Palestinians, changing the judicial organ, and redeploying the Israeli Army at certain points after the implementation of autonomy.

Al-Najjab said: "We were not surprised by Israel's failure to take the negotiation process seriously, its hard-line attitude, and the reports about Israel's backtracking on autonomy."

The Palestinian official pointed out that the PLO rejects the autonomy stipulated in Camp David. It even refuses to use that phrase. He said that the reason is that what is mentioned in the U.S. assurances letter is a transitional stage and transitional arrangements for self-government [al-hukumah al-dhatiyyah] and a transitional authority for self-government. Absolutely nothing was said about nor any reference made to autonomy.

Al-Najjab regarded the Israeli positions in question as new confirmation that Israel is not serious about working to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy but is trying to blackmail the Palestinian side, to engage in unacceptable blackmail.

He added that what is required now is a specific position from the U.S. Administration, which arranged the whole process and is sponsoring it, and a position from all the parties participating in that process, a position proceeding from respect for international legitimacy, its resolutions, and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Al-Najjab noted that, if that process reaches a dead end, the responsibility will fall on Israel alone. And in that case this would be a total failure for U.S. policy and its efforts to build a new order in the region.

Asked about the possibilities of the Palestinian delegation withdrawing from the bilateral negotiations, Al-Najjab told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We believe that the current bilateral negotiations are tantamount to a new front for regaining the Palestinian people's national rights. And there is international unanimity to give these negotiations the necessary support and time to ensure their success.

For our part, we are serious about making these negotiations a success. And our positions and steps reflect that seriousness and enjoy increasing international respect. But we cannot continue a process which Israel is trying to strip of its content merely in order to play for time and proceed with changing the reality, swallow up our land, and impose a fait accompli on our people. This is why the door of returning the entire issue to the UN Security Council is open and must remain open.

On the truth of the reports that a deviation in the direction of administrative autonomy has occurred in the substance and authority of the bilateral negotiations over the implementation of Resolution 242, Al-Najjab emphasized that "the bilateral negotiations have not deviated from their aim of securing Israeli withdrawal from our occupied land, the land-for-peace principle, and guaranteeing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. And we believe that what is called the transitional period and its arrangements are aimed at facilitating the Israeli withdrawal process and securing the transfer of power and sovereignty over the land and inhabitants to representatives of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories."

Al-Najjab warned that Israel's rulers are currently working as hard as possible to waste the important achievements which the Palestinian people's cause made in Madrid. In that context the Palestinian official called on the United States to continue its efforts to put an end to the Israeli sides' irresponsible actions, thus proving its commitment to the resolutions of international legitimacy and the foundations it adopted for the settlement process.

Editorial Urges Replacing 'Arafat With 'Ashrawi

NC1612215991 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 14 Dec 91 pp 1, 8

[From the "Political Stand" column by editor in chief Ibrahim Sa'dah: "They have Golda. We have Hanan"]

[Text] The great warrior Yasir 'Arafat does not want to admit that the world has changed and that what was acceptable 50 years ago is no longer acceptable. We are on the threshold of the 21st century. People worldwide have renounced war, rejected terrorism, advocated peace, and called for resolving international problems by negotiating. The spokesman of the Palestinian cause continues to hold the drum all by himself, even though his hands have become sore from beating the war drum. He still remains committed to the slogans without which it could have been possible to solve the problem many years ago and to restore the rights of the Palestinian people, a people afflicted by his leadership and warriorship.

This is nothing new or strange in 'Arafat's behavior. There is no harm in noting some of what 'Arafat has said and done in the last few days so that we can laugh at and mock this person whose time and place ended a long time ago:

The shameful role 'Arafat played before and during the Gulf crisis has not been and will not be forgotten. Yet, 'Arafat believed that he could make everyone forgive his plotting, ambitions, and hatred in a mere session with Arab kings and presidents. 'Arafat had already underlined this illusion in statements he made to a number of Western newspapers immediately after Iraq's defeat and Saddam's subduing. He must have believed himself because he flew to Dakar to attend the Islamic Conference Organization summit. He seized the opportunity of the presence of Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and rushed toward him to embrace him. He was surprised when the Saudi crown prince refused to embrace him and merely shook his hands. This happened in front of all sorts of cameras and summit participants and was reported by news agencies worldwide.

The shock was violent and humiliating. The man, however, does not understand the word capitulation, and does not pay attention to such things when he thinks he can circumvent and absorb the consequences of his actions. 'Arafat quickly thought of a way of turn his humiliation into a heroic stand in which to envelop himself. He raised his voice, demanding and insisting on adding the word "al-jihad" to the final communique issued by the summit. The Foreign Affairs Committee tasked with drawing up the communique refused to use this word, limiting itself to a paragraph that said: We underline our determination to confront the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories occupied since 1967. We also stress that we will work with all the means we have to prepare ourselves for the struggle to liberate the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories.

They were clear-cut words giving support and strength to the Arab and Palestinian negotiators in the current round of peace talks in Washington. The committee charged with drafting the communique believed that the word jihad was inappropriate in view of the direct talks currently taking place with Israel. In addition, Senegalese Foreign Minister Djibo Leyti Ka told 'Arafat in the conference hall: We felt that the communique should conform to the current world situation. 'Arafat shouted angrily, saying: You are giving us neither funds nor arms and now you are robbing us of the jihad. He was not content to let it go at that; he accused all the Muslim leaders of "treason!"

On the same day he tried to throw himself in the lap of the Muslim leaders, 'Arafat attacked them and accused them of treason to punish them for their refusal to pardon his plotting, involvement, and participation in the Gulf crisis! 'Arafat found no other way to focus attention on his rejected character but to attack all Muslim leaders. He then walked out of the session with camera flashes going off all around him. He later returned in humiliation to the conference hall where he exploded in tears!

What kind of a head of state is this man?! How do the Palestinian people endure this "clown" as their representative, spokesman, and controller of their fate?! The world now knows a new breed of conscientious Palestinian leaders who are conducting negotiations with the Israelis these days. These personalities have shown the required moderation and brilliance in explaining their issue and demanding their rights. There is a huge difference between these personalities and 'Arafat and the rest of the boys around him who have harmed their cause and people.

For many years 'Arafat has been governing and controlling the Palestinian issue and has not taken even one step to resolve it, managing only to distort the image of the Palestinian people and to give the Zionists the opportunity to persist in their usurpation and occupation of others' land. In only a few weeks, however, the Palestinian personalities who are conducting the current negotiations have succeeded in presenting the world with the bright face of the Palestinian people. They have cornered the Israelis and forced them to continue talking under unprecedented world pressure.

Shamir and the rest of the hawks have tried to obstruct the talks by fabricating a thousand excuses. However, world pressure has stubbornly resisted and rejected these unsuccessful attempts. Shamir will not give up easily. On the contrary, he will continue to try to obstruct the talks or even to withdraw from them. What is important is that the Palestinian delegation continue to control its nerves and to refute and encircle the Israeli lies with the same brilliance it has shown in both Madrid and Washington.

The world had a reason to ignore the Palestinian issue as long as the incapable 'Arafat was its spokesman and the person responsible for its defense. The picture has changed now that a new breed of intellectually capable Palestinians have taken the floor to defend their cause with intelligible and persuasive arguments.

Yasir 'Arafat knows this and it tortures him day and night. He hopes that the talks fail so this new and promising generation of respectable and well-educated Palestinians withdraw from the scene and make room for him and his gang to once more squander every chance that their people have, exactly as they have been doing for years. I hope that this dream of 'Arafat and Shamir never comes true. I hope that the Palestinian delegation continues to perform brilliantly on the negotiating table until the Palesitnian people restore their land and rights and exercise self-determination. The entire world has been, for the first time, impressed with the public remarks of Palestinian representatives, who were the true stars of the peace conference.

I, finally, hope that the Palestinian people end the circus that 'Arafat and his supporters have had on the road for so long and give the responsibility for their command to one of those who proved their aptitude, skill, and patriotism to the whole world over the past few weeks. Were it up to me, I would name Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi president of the Palestinian state. I am confident that 'Ashrawi can achieve in one year what 'Arafat could not achieve in 20. This choice is not merely due to 'Ashrawi's culture, skill, and forceful defense of her people's rights. There is another reason that, in my opinion, justifies such a candidacy. Israel boasts that a woman—Golda Meir—defeated all Arab leaders, took their land, routed their armies, and made plans for Greater Israel. We now have a chance to name a Palestinian woman—Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi—to face the Israeli hawkish males, retrieve from them the land and rights of her people, for Palestinian men of the type of Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], Abu-Khanjar [or the man with the dagger] and Abu-Matwa [the man with the knife] have fled in front of an Israeli woman.

Egypt

President, Prime Minister on Ferry Accident

NC1612171991 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Excerpts] The President's Office has issued the following statement: President Husni Mubarak has received with sorrow and regret the news of the terrible accident in which an Egyptian ferry sank off Safajah Port. The president has closely followed the developments and instructed all state civilian and military agencies to carry out rescue and relief operations. The president expressed condolences to the families of the victims who, as fate would have it, lost their lives in this painful incident.

The statement continues: The president also expressed his and the Egyptian people's appreciation for the generous condolence messages he received from the kings and presidents of fraternal and friendly countries who telephoned his excellency and expressed their profound sorrow.

We ask God to preserve Egypt and protect its people from all harm, the statement concludes. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi delivered a statement to the People's Assembly today on the sinking of the Egyptian ferry Salim Express on the evening of 14 December. The ferry was preparing to enter Safajah Port carrying 654 people, mostly Egyptians, but also including 12 Sudanese, Saudi, Malaysian, and Philippine nationals.

The prime minister said that the ferry sank in minutes and that 178 survivors have been picked up to date, adding that planes and ships are continuing their rescue operations.

Sidqi described the relief operations as highly organized. He said the ferry has been making the same run for more than 15 years and can carry 1,300 people. He said that the probable cause of the incident was a navigation error which resulted in the vessel deviating from the normal course, causing it to collide with coral reefs. He pointed that in addition to the investigation carried out by the prosecutor's office, a technical committee is now studying the accident.

The prime minister said that beginning today frogmen will try to determine where the ferry is located to bring it to the surface.

He described the incident as the most serious catastrophe ever to take place in Egypt.

The People's Assembly offered condolences to the victims' families and referred the incident to a joint committee formed by the Transport, Communications, Defense, National Security, Insurance, and Awqaf Committees.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1507 GMT on 16 December, in a similar report, adds: "According to the latest statistic received from the accident site near Safajah Port, the number of survivors of the disaster has risen to 180." "Major General Hasan al-Ajhuri, assistant interior minister and director of the Port Authority, has stated that, according to the list of passengers received from Jeddah Port, the ferry was carrying 649 passengers of which 180 have been rescued, bringing the number of victims to 469. He added that Hasan Khalil Muru, the stricken ferry's captain, was among the victims and noted that 21 crew members survived."]

Mubarak Views Peace Talks With Namibian Visitor

NC1612114891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1035 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 16 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Namibian Foreign Minister Theo-Ben Gurirab in the presidential office in Heliopolis this morning. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa attended the meeting.

'Amr Musa later stated that the meeting focused on the situation in South Africa and African developments in general, in addition to the Middle East peace process. He said the Namibian foreign minister voiced his country's support for the ongoing peace process and hoped it will lead to peace in the Middle East.

Touching on the ongoing peace talks in Washington, Minister Musa said latest reports indicate that the process is under way, although some difficulties still persist. He said the situation requires a rejuvenation of the process, as well as measures to build confidence. He said Israel should halt the practices we see and hear about every day, particularly the expulsion of Palestinians or the occupation of their homes because this will have an adverse effect on the spirit of the peace process, its positive aspects, and its effectiveness.

Responding to a question on the U.S. intercession in case negotiations stumble, Musa said the talks have not stumbled yet. He noted that the United States, as host, is shouldering a very active role in the process.

Commenting on reports about Iranian influence spreading in Sudan and whether this concerns Egypt, the foreign minister said: We have to be realistic and to follow up the situation carefully. It is natural for the president of any state to pay a visit to another friendly state. Iran has the right to undertake whatever activities it wants, as much as it is Sudan's right to receive heads of state in accordance with internationally established protocol, he said.

The foreign minister added that Egypt is following up the situation on the basis of respect for the African people's desire to live in peace and security, and to develop their countries and cooperate within the framework of international legitimacy. He stressed, however, that Egypt will not tolerate any act that conflicts with or adversely affects Arab or African interests.

Musa asserted that the Egyptian diplomatic body is carefully observing all developments in the Arab and

African worlds. He emphasized that there is a proper way to deal with developments as they happen.

For his part, the Namibian foreign minister said that he conveyed a message of thanks to President Mubarak from Namibian President Sam Nujoma for the efforts he is making to give a boost to the Middle East peace process, as well as his efforts at both the Arab and African levels. He remarked that Egypt is held in esteem by both Africans and Asians.

He added that the message deals also with bilateral relations, noting that Egypt was one of the first states to support African liberation movements. He noted in this context that the first office for the liberation movement SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] was opened in Cairo in the early sixties. He pointed out that Egypt contributes to Namibian development efforts.

The Namibian minister added that the message deals with developments in Angola, Mozambique, and southern Africa.

Touching on the situation in Angola, Minister Gurirab said work is under way to sign a peace agreement and hold free elections. He said the world will see the end of racial discrimination in the coming stage. He added that the parties concerned—all the political parties and liberation movements in southern Africa—will meet within days to negotiate the general framework of peace.

The Namibian foreign minister said Namibia is making efforts to consolidate democracy in all of southern Africa.

He said he conveyed to President Mubarak the Namibian Government's condolences over the victims of the ferry that sank yesterday, hoping that the largest possible number of survivors will be rescued.

In conclusion, the Namibian minister said he will discuss bilateral ties and ways to develop them with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Sudanese Presidential Envoy Discusses Relations

NC1612142491 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 12 Dec 91 p 12

[Interview with Mustafa 'Uthman Isma'il, Sudanese minister of state and envoy of Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir, by correspondent Sana' al-Sa'id in Cairo; date not given]

[Al-Sa'id] In an interview published in AL-MUSAWWAR last week, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said he discussed complex and pending issues with you. How long before Egyptian-Sudanese ties relax?

[Isma'il] We discussed this topic and found that the best way to address these issues is to form joint Egyptian-Sudanese committees and not to address them through the information media or those who want relations to remain tense. These committees will meet periodically, and through them we in Egypt and Sudan can make sure that these issues have been addressed sincerely and honestly as dictated by the relations of neighborliness, history, and destiny.

[Al-Sa'id] What about Egypt's treatment of Sudanese citizens from the security aspect?

[Isma'il] There are absolutely no complaints. All issues were solved once and for all during my meeting with the Egyptian interior minister. There is no harassment of Sudanese nationals in Cairo—airport or ports—nor of Egyptians in Sudan. We hope this issue will not be linked in the future to official relations, because it directly affects citizens of both countries.

[Al-Sa'id] The Islamic Front is still close to you. Are you trying to dissociate yourselves from it, or are you still holding on to it, particularly since many people are convinced that the current Sudanese regime came to power with the Islamic Front's influence?

[Isma'il] The Islamic Front is one of the parties that has been dissolved. But its members are the most responsive participants in the government. We are now acting according to two factors: First, making sure that this religious trend present in Sudan supports the strategic ties with Egypt, and that in no way will it threaten Egypt, whether from inside Egypt or Sudan. We want to affirm this and reassure the Egyptian leadership. Proposals have been submitted in this respect, and I referred to this in my remarks about the joint security committees. We want Egypt to be assured of our true intentions and goals and to know that we will not harm it. We also want to make sure this trend that takes part in the government is not opposed to rapprochement and coordination with Egypt or that it might threaten Egypt. Second, we are concerned about the nationalist character of the government and participation by the largest number of Sudanese segments in it in rebuilding Sudan, in its current renaissance, and in cementing its ties with the neighboring countries in particular and the world in general.

[Al-Sa'id] Since the way has been paved, when will President al-Bashir visit Egypt?

[Isma'il] President al-Bashir declared his readiness to visit Egypt as soon as possible. Such a visit, however, requires detailed preparations and a firm foundation so that relations will not be restrained for experience another setback. What I can confirm is that President al-Bashir will be ready when the atmosphere in Egypt is ready for his visit. My visit to Egypt was aimed at preparing for President al-Bashir's visit. He is eager to visit Cairo and the visit is expected to take place very shortly.

[Al-Sa'id] Speaking of Sudanese-Iranian relations, some believe that they may insinuate connivance against Egypt. How far is this true?

[Isma'il] When it comes to relations, we give top priority to Egypt. Our relations with other states can never be at the expense of Egypt, our closely-linked neighbor and sister country. Sudanese-Iranian relations are new; we are just laying the foundations. They cannot be built on

conspiring or conniving against a sister country such as Egypt, with which we are linked eternally, historically, and by blood and fate.

[Al-Sa'id] Yemen has been invited to the multilateral talks expected to be held before the end of next month, but you have not. Where does Sudan stand on the ongoing peace process?

[Isma'il] Regrettably, it has been isolated from the march, not being involved in the Madrid conference or bilateral talks. We observe events from a distance. If peace based on justice and established Palestinian rights is achieved, we will certainly support it, although present information indicates that Israeli intransigence makes this unlikely. Its intransigence was reflected in Israeli bargaining on the date slated for the resumption of bilateral talks and by Israel not showing last Wednesday.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you think that the United States can be an impartial, neutral, and serious mediator on whom we can depend in the peace process?

[Isma'il] We watch from a distance but see nothing to encourage optimism. Yet we do not want to be too pessimistic. Our approach is to observe. Should any encouraging sign emerge, we will certainly support the peaceful approach. We will remain doubtful until such a sign emerges.

[Al-Sa'id] Multilateral talks will involve more than 30 states. Regional states such as Turkey have asked to participate. How does Sudan view the water resources issue and the possible discussion of Nile waters?

[Isma'il] Sudan has not been invited and has no plans to participate. We do not want to link specific issues to others which are ramified. We have our own views on water. I believe that the Nile waters issue should be limited to directly responsible, littoral countries.

Musa on Iran-Sudan Talks, Mediterranean Peace

NC1612193891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 16 Dec (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the meeting between Egyptian, Italian, and Greek foreign ministers in Rome on 18 December is part of consultations the three are holding to bolster cooperation among the Mediterranean countries. He said that the meeting marks the beginning of a general discussion of the issue.

On current Sudanese-Iranian talks, the foreign minister said that Egypt is following developments and analyzing statements to maintain regional security and stability.

Musa added that Egypt is following the bilateral peace negotiations in Washington, and hoped it would soon be agreed when talks would resume. He noted that the venue for multilateral talks is still [words indistinct] because no alternative has been decided.

Regarding Egypt's stance on repealing the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism, he said that Egypt urges respect for the Palestinian people's rights, halting illegal measures which do not respect the law, such as expulsion of Palestinians, assaults on Arab homes, and building settlements. He emphasized that such Israeli acts bode no good and threaten the peace process.

Czechoslovakia's Havel Holds News Conference

NC1612194391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 16 Dec (MENA)—Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel has announced that his talks with President Husni Mubarak today were "fruitful." The talks dealt with the Middle East peace process and the situation in the Soviet Union and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

President Havel, who was speaking at a news conference held at al-Qubbah Presidential Palace in Cairo this evening, added that his talks with President Mubarak also dealt with bilateral relations. He said his visit to Egypt constitutes a visit to the "entire Arab world".

Describing Egypt's regional policy as "an active and constructive one," he said: We are proud of the policy that Egypt pursues. He noted the similarity between Egyptian and Czechoslovak policies.

President Havel explained that following the former totalitarian system's collapse, Czechoslovakia has been pursuing a new policy based on dealing with all the countries of the world, particularly the EC, with which it has established "very good relations". He also referred to the good relations Czechoslovakia has with the United States.

In the one-hour conference, President Havel added: We want to establish our relations with Arab countries on strong foundations of understanding, friendship, and mutual respect. On Egyptian-Czechoslovak cooperation, he noted that he is being accompanied on his current visit to Egypt by a large group of ministers, businessmen, and corporation heads who will hold talks with their Egyptian partners with the aim of developing economic ties between the two countries.

On Middle East issues, President Havel said that during his talks with President Mubarak this morning, the latter gave a frank explanation of Egyptian positions on all Middle East developments. He added that President Mubarak asked him about some issues connected with developments in the Soviet Union.

On Egyptian-Czechoslovak relations, President Havel said that President Mubarak told him more than once that the Egyptians consider Czechoslovakia a friendly country that is the closest East European country to Egypt.

President Havel said he has extended an invitation to President Mubarak to visit Czechoslovakia and that Mubarak will seize the first opportunity to accept the invitation.

Asked whether the Egyptian side showed interest in Czechoslovak domestic affairs, President Havel said that the Egyptian ministers have, indeed, shown their interest in this issue. President Mubarak made an important remark pertaining to everything that permits greater coordination and cooperation between them. [sentence as received] The Czechoslovak president said that his country is interested in becoming part of democratic Europe and take part in the market economy. It is in the process signing an agreement for economic cooperation with the European countries. He added that Czechoslovakia is looking with great interest to developing its relations with the neighboring states, particularly Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, and the republics of the Soviet Union.

Asked about the situation in the Soviet Union, President Havel said it is natural that we should be interested in everything that takes place in the Soviet Union because we are close neighbors and have strong economic ties. He noted that features of the recent agreement among three Soviet republics—Ukrania, the Russian Federation, and Belarus—to establish a commonwealth are still not clear. It is possible that this new commonwealth will represent a realistic course because Ukrania has joined this alliance. This represents one of the positive elements of this alliance, he said.

President Havel added that this new alliance may embody some dangers and problems. We are fully confident, he added, that the developments in the future will be without conflict.

President Havel said that President Mubarak explained to him that solving the Middle East problem demands genuine political will by both sides, and that he does not expect an immediate solution due to the complexities of the problem and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's intransigence.

The Czechoslovak president said that he expressed to President Mubarak Czechoslovakia's concern about the fate of the Kuwaiti prisoners and other foreigners who are still being held as prisoners in Iraq.

Regarding his country's position on developments in Yugoslavia, President Havel said that the present situation in Yugoslavia cannot continue, expressing his belief in the inevitability of recognizing the independence of the republics of Slovania and Croatia through European consensus. He added that President Mubarak has a comprehensive idea and complete information about the situation in Yugoslavia. He added that President Mubarak is strongly touched by the bloody conflict taking place in Yugoslavia following the collapse of constitutional order there in the wake of the death of late President Tito.

Departs Cairo After Meeting Mubarak

NC1712084791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0735 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel held a separate round of talks at the al-Qubbah Palace this morning. During the session, the two presidents resumed their discussion of the topics and issues they discussed yesterday; most important, the latest developments in the Middle East peace process, developments in East Europe, and the future of bilateral relations.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 0740 GMT adds: "Czechoslovak's President Vaclav Havel today concluded his three-day official visit to Egypt and began a private visit during which he will tour Upper Egypt. President Husni Mubarak bid President Havel farewell during an official farewell ceremony at the al-Qubbah Presidential Palace. President Mubarak then accompanied President Havel to Cairo International Airport, where Havel boarded his private plane heading for Aswan on the start of a private visit that will last for a few days. During the visit, President Havel will visit tourist and archaeological sites in Upper Egypt. The Czechoslovak president will also visit the High Dam.]

Mubarak Receives Message From Nigerian President

NC1612140691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1323 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Dec (MENA)—Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida has sent a message to President Husni Mubarak dealing with current African issues and bilateral ties.

The message was delivered to Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Nigerian Ambassador Mustafa Sam during his meeting with him in Cairo today. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Musa Leaves for Rome 17 Dec

NC1712082091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo for Rome today on a two-day visit to Italy.

In a predeparture statement, Musa said that he will meet with Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti and Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis later today to discuss the Middle East situation in light of the ongoing peace efforts. Musa said that tomorrow he will attend meetings with the Greek, Egyptian, and Italian foreign ministers to discuss the means to bolster cooperation among the Mediterranean countries in the various domains.

Officials Depart for Talks on Satellite Channel

NC1712110491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA)—Amin Basyuni, chairman of the board of trustees of the Radio and Television Union, and engineer Faruq 'Amir, chief of the broadcast engineering sector, left Cairo for London this morning to follow up the technical and engineering steps related to the new teletext channel. Basyuni and 'Amir will also discuss ways to ensure the continuation of the Egyptian Space Channel [ESC] since the orbit of the Arab satellite (Arabsat) has shifted one degree. They will also hold talks with officials in the British cable company to acquaint themselves with the quality of ESC's reception there.

Possible U.S. Measures Against Libya Viewed

NC1712080191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0622 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM reports that the U.S. Administration is expected to undertake several acts to boost the popularity of U.S. President George Bush before the beginning of next year, which is a U.S. election year.

In today's commentary the paper notes that preparations for these acts with respect to the Middle East have already started. The files of cases that had died down for awhile were reopened, such as the issue of the explosion of the U.S. airliner over Scotland in 1988 and the accusation against Libya for responsibility in this incident. The paper adds that coordination among the United States, Britain, and France is expected to adopt deterrent punitive measures against Libya.

The paper notes that another confrontation will be with Iraq's ruler Saddam Husayn. In this regard, the United States will provide military backing for rebellion or coup attempts against the Iraqi president to get rid of him and recognize and support the new regime.

Concluding its commentary, the paper warns against the serious implications of escalating these election considerations, which could lead to adventures and the wrong results, even in the short run.

'Unacceptable' Israeli Proposals for Peace Viewed

NC1612185491 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Commentary by Mahmud Marzuq: "Legitimate Arab Rights and Unacceptable Israeli Proposals"]

[Text] Arab delegations have been coordinating their stands before the Washington Middle East peace talks resume today. They have stressed the need to confront the artificial obstacles Israel is creating to confuse Arabs and divert talks to marginal and procedural issues that have nothing to do with peace. Israel's rulers insist on keeping the occupied Arab territories, ignoring usurped rights, and refusing to make any gesture creating the right climate for establishing a just peace.

The Israeli delegation came to Washington with the same no's and provocative and hardline conditions that have largely impeded progress in the peace process. The Israeli delegation's hint that withdrawing from the occupied Arab territories is not on the cards, and cannot be negotiated now, proves that Israel is not taking peace seriously and not thinking of concluding the talks the way all other parties want. Israel's chief concern is to waste time and try to prolong and cloud the talks, finally rendering them pointless.

Israel is playing this game because it knows that the Christmas and New Year holidays are near, when the West comes to a standstill. Then the next year will begin, bringing the U.S. presidential election closer. The Jewish lobby wants to exploit this election and pressure candidates to attain Israel's goals and prevent a just peace that contradicts its ambitions.

Israel's objectives are now too well known to be kept secret, particularly if we recall the $10 billion Israel wants to finance settlements in the occupied Arab territories. U.S. President Bush postponed a decision on Israeli loan guarantees for this amount until January, pending the results of peace efforts. Shamir's government feels compelled to attend the talks so that it does not lose the chance of these billions or give the U.S. Administration an excuse to withhold guarantees. So it came to Washington, not seeking peace but other objectives unconnected with peace and its requirements.

In view of Israel's position at the start of the second stage of peace negotiations, we ask: What can the Washington talks bring? What kind of peace are the Israelis talking about—one based on the admissibility of occupying others' territories by force and under the illusion that, while keeping them, peace with the Arabs can be achieved?

These are legitimate questions confronting the other side's proposals, which are unacceptable to Arab negotiators, and the whole world, notably the United States. On the eve of the second round of talks, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker asserted that the United States will not isolate itself from the essentials of negotiations, and will submit proposals and supervise the talks to encourage peace. The United States also stressed that continuing the Israeli settlement program holds up peace.

How far can peace process cosponsors, particularly the United States, create harmony between legitimate Arab rights for peace based on clear UN resolutions and Israel's inclinations that make it imagine it can achieve peace while continuing to occupy Arab lands.

This contrast places additional responsibility on the cosponsors' shoulders, based on the premise on which peace conference invitations were issued and on the threat Israeli complications pose the entire peace process. The perceived threats do not only endanger the

peace process, but seek to drive international parties calling for conference out of the talks. The Israeli leaders are doing this having realized how serious the world's approach is to laying the foundations of a just and comprehensive Middle East settlement.

'Racist' Nature of Israeli Policies Examined

NC1712083091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0628 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA)—In its editorial published Tuesday, the newspaper AL-AKHBAR affirms that all the Israeli Government's practices confirm that a racist tendency still governs the thinking of all its members. Evidence of this is seen in the policies adopted against the Arab inhabitants of the occupied Palestinian and Syrian territories, its Nazi-like measures, and the seizure of territories by force after expelling their original owners, replacing them with individuals whose grandparents, and they themselves, have never lived in the land of Palestine.

The paper notes that among the Israeli racist measures is that allowing the Jewish inhabitants of Jerusalem the right to seize any property in which Arabs are residing and to expel the natives of the occupied territories from their homeland, in violation and defiance of all international laws and norms which prohibit such inhuman practices. The paper points out that regardless of whether the UN General Assembly Resolution of 1975 equating Zionism with racism is annulled [as received], Israel's conduct attests to the validity of this resolution.

AL-AKHBAR asks with irony: Is there any definition of racism other than what the world is watching, that is, the aggressive practices and activity undertaken by a state founded on a religious basis in the second half of the 20th century and Israel's attempts to have this resolution revoked?

The paper concludes its editorial entitled, "Racism Is Conduct and Not Just a Resolution", by saying that if Israel is truly upset about being accused of racism, it should follow the same path started by the white government in South Africa, which gave rights back to their legitimate owners.

Column on Need To Continue Palestinian Intifadah

NC1612160691 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 11 Dec 91 p 5

[From the "A Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Hayawan]

[Text] The Palestinian people's intifadah must continue. First, because it is an internationally legitimate act and the people have the right to resist those who occupy their territories. The whole world admits that the territories are occupied. Even the United States confirms that they are occupied and that their character should not be changed. Second, because the intifadah is the Palestinian people's most honorable act. It targets the occupier, not innocent people aboard hijacked planes or in world airports. Third, because the action worries Israel, bearing on its economy, and making Israel's friends tense.

A CNN television program on the intifadah anniversary said that investments started flowing into Israel following the peace treaty [mu'ahadah salam] with Egypt. It did not say reconciliation [sulh] because that needs other treaties on other fronts. The television report also noted that peace is in Israel's interest and that businessmen rushed to Israel when it achieved peace with Egypt. But peace with Egypt cannot be stable unless there is peace with the other neighbors. Peace with Israel never meant that Egypt would stop demanding Arab rights. Any tension between Israel and its neighbors causes anxiety in Egypt, telling its people that Israel did not deserve peace.

CNN then said that the intifadah halted the flow of capital into Israel, because capital is cowardly by nature and does not wait to be hit by a stone or a brick, and that Israel is facing economic difficulties because of the intifadah. The intifadah is necessary and its continuation is an effective tool for pressuring Israel. This is on condition that the intifadah, as a legitimate act inside the occupied territories, is differentiated from the terrorist operations outside, which could be staged by Israel's intelligence men and blamed on the Palestinian organizations, especially as the intelligence men's reputation makes people believe the accusation; similar to the extremists in Egypt and al-Qadhdhafi's outside Egypt.

The American television station did not mention that Israel has benefited from the Iraqi-Iranian war, which found Israel militarily relaxing. Israel further benefited from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Saddam's dud missiles fired on Israel brought them great benefits. We cannot agree with those who say that U.S. intelligence encouraged Saddam to benefit Israel. This drivel seeks to attribute everything to U.S. intelligence. They say search for U.S. intelligence, even in a dispute between an Arab and his wife.

Arab regimes, which call themselves revolutionary, have achieved dozens of benefits and gains for Israel because these regimes only voice hollow words. They speak incomprehensibly and act like terrorists, giving Israel the opportunity to benefit and be paid.

While peace is in Israel's interest, it rejects it because it wants the territories and capitulation. It plays the game of Arab differences and quixotic slogans, always winning because the Arabs lose by their own hand.

Libya

Justice Source Clarifies Lockerbie Trial Proposal

LD1612115291 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0920 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Dec (JANA)—A responsible source at the Secretariat for Justice in the Great Jamahiriyah has

commented on a statement by the British public prosecutor in Edinburgh on Friday, 13 December 1991, that Tripoli's proposal to try in Libya its two citizens accused of involvement in the American Pan Am airplane explosion is a calculated absurdity.

The source said that he wants to clarify the following in this respect:

1. The Libyan judiciary respects the provisions of law and believes that honesty, neutrality, and independence lie in respect for the law and not in the appeasement of political stances that do not fall within its jurisdiction and that consequently detract from its independence and neutrality.

2. The authorities concerned in the Great Jamahiriyah issued a statement from the very first day of receiving the indictment, announcing the appointment of a judge to investigate the accusations and urging the judicial and other concerned authorities to support [words indistinct].

3. The Great Jamahiriyah calls on all parties concerned to cooperate with the investigation being carried out to ensure the honesty of the investigations and the soundness of the procedures used.

4. The authorities concerned in the Great Jamahiriyah are pursuing the course set by the accepted international laws and agreements in regard to both jurisdiction and extradition.

5. The judicial authorities in the Jamahiriyah refuse to follow the other parties in exchanging non-legal expressions and epithets, which never helped nor will ever help in finding the real culprit.

In view of the above, is it right to describe as absurdity the measures taken by the authorities concerned in the Jamahiriyah for the application of their laws and their adherance to the international laws, agreements, principles, and usages, and their demand for collaboration with the judicial authorities in the United Kingdom and the United States in getting to the truth? It seems this is the way UK and U.S. authorities view such international laws.

We are surprised at such behavior by judicial authorities. Can such behavior make one trust these authorities in the face of the world at a time when these authorities see legitimacy and reason as absurdity?

Al-Bishari on Lockerbie Issue, ICO Support

PM1612145591 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Dec 91 p 4

['Abdallah Ould Muhammadi report: "Libyan External Liaison Secretary Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Pin Great Hopes on Arab Mediation; We Are Satisfied With Islamic Summit's Solidarity With Us"]

[Text] Dakar—Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the Libyan People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation, has emphasized that his country pins great hopes on the results of the Arab mediation in the crisis between it and the United States, Britain, and France.

However, that mediation, al-Bishari says, does not prevent Libya from explaining its position on the issue and seeking Arab, Islamic, and international support. In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the Libyan secretary said that he was satisfied with the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] summit's solidarity with his country. He added: "Libya's position is just and credible. In its final documents, the [Islamic] conference passed a resolution submitted by the Arab Maghreb states on support for Libya's position calling for investigations regarding those involved in the Lockerbie incident, or even the French plane incident."

The Libyan secretary added: "The conference categorically rejected the use of force, the threat of force, any military action by the United States and Britain against Libya, and economic measures against the Libyan people."

On Libya's reply to the EC's rejection of Libya's offer to form a joint international investigation commission and the request for extradition of the two accused Libyans to Britain, al-Bishari said: "Under Libyan laws which have been in force for decades, Libyans who commit crimes abroad are convicted and severely punished, but these laws do not allow the extradition of Libyan citizens to other states. Libya is no exception here. Laws in other world states stipulate that if a citizen of any of these states commits a crime then that state will punish him. Extradition of Libyan citizens would undermine our sovereignty and independence. We are all for investigation, for finding out who was responsible for these crimes, and for punishment of the culprit."

He added: "Some charges have been made against some Libyan citizens. These charges are based on suspicions, but there is no evidence. It is in our interest, before being in the U.S. and British interests, to find the perpetrator and punish him because that would portray our true image to the world. If it is a judicial matter, then we would join in and pursue it to the end. We cannot accept conviction before the verdict is issued."

Envoy to Arab League on Resolving Lockerbie Case

NC1612104991 Cairo AL-AHRAM Weekly in English 12 Dec 91 p 2

[Khalid Dawud report on "exclusive" interview with 'Ali al-Turayki, Libyan envoy to the Arab League, date, place not given]

[Text] 'Ali al-Turayki, Libya's envoy to the Arab League, says his government is not seeking a confrontation with the United States or Britain over the Lockerbie case, but strongly believes the problem could be solved through dialogue.

Libya's readiness to open a dialogue with the U.S. and Britain precedes the charges levelled by the two countries

against two Libyan intelligence agents, whom they blamed for bombing a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988. Some 270 people were killed in the crash.

"We have offered that (dialogue) several times," al-Turayki said. "I even tried that personally several times when I was serving as Libya's representative at the United Nations."

Al-Turayki said Libya did not lodge a complaint with the UN Security Council against the Anglo-America threats of military action because "the three countries who are against us (the U.S., Britain, and France) are permanent members of the council. This means that any resolutions (in Libya's favour) are bound to be vetoed."

But since the UN Charter calls for solving dispute among nations by peaceful means, Libya requested the formation of a joint Arab League-United Nations committee to investigate the case.

Al-Turayki warned that military action against Libya will not only harm his country "but the whole region and especially the (Middle East) peace process."

The U.S. and Britain have insisted that the two Libyan suspects be handed over to face trial, but they stopped short of saying what they would do if Libya did not comply.

Al-Turayki expressed the belief that the furor made by Britain and the U.S. against his country has political objectives that go beyond the Lockerbie incident.

"This is not the first time that we are subjected to U.S. attacks and accusations," he said. "They bombed us before, in 1986, accusing us of responsibility for an attack against a bar in West Germany where a number of American soldiers were killed. They discovered later, however, that we were not involved in that attack."

Al-Turayki claimed that the U.S. "doesn't want to admit or allow any other country to have a policy that is different from American policy."

He denied that Libya supports terrorism. "But we support the Palestinian cause and any group which struggles for the liberation of Palestine," al-Turayki said. "Yet, if any of these groups were found to be committing terrorist acts, we would immediately cut off our relations with it."

Al-Turayki said Libya's offer that the U.S. and Britain would send judges or investigators to question the two Libyan suspects was a reflection of its "rational" policy in dealing with the problem.

The Libyan envoy expressed satisfaction with the current level of coordination among Arab states, pointing out that all Arab states declared support for Libya, "particularly President Husni Mubarak who made great efforts in Libya's support."

"Egypt and Libya are not only friends but brothers and members of the Arab League," he said. "A quick look at Egyptian newspaper editorials will show public opinion's support for Libya's position."

Statement on Efforts To Stop Liberian Fighting

LD1612153291 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Dec (JANA)—The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has issued a statement on the situation in Liberia. The statement says:

In response to the efforts made by the friends of the Great Jamahiriyah and the moral status and great trust it enjoys among the parties in conflict in Liberia...[JANA ellipses] in consolidation of the OAU efforts and adherence to its charter, as well as the efforts being made by the current OAU chairmanship and the support the latter is giving to the endeavors of the West African states; and out of eagerness for stability and security and an end to the bloodshed in this fraternal African country...[JANA ellipses], the Great Jamahiriyah has made intensive contacts with the belligerents in the Liberian arena. These peoples have responded to the request of the Great Jamahiriyah regarding the necessity of ending the fighting so that stability and peace can prevail over this country and so the fraternal Liberian people may have freedom through national and democratic dialogue among all their groups, parties, and fronts. A stop to the fighting will allow Liberians to attain the democratic path they seek.

The Great Jamahiriyah, with its friends, will continue its steps and contacts aimed at putting an end to the fighting and the bloodshed between the parties in conflict so that security, stability, peace, and democracy are achieved in this fraternal country.

Tunisian Housing Minister Lauds Relations

LD1612192291 Tripoli JANA in English 1608 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 16, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—Ahmed Friaa, the Tunisian minister of equipment and housing, lauded the steps taken towards the construction of the edifice of the Arab Maghreb Union as an advanced step along the path of total Arab unity.

This came in an interview with the Radio of Great Jamahiryah. Regarding the meeting of the Arab Libyan-Tunisian infrastructure committee, which concluded its meeting in Tripoli on Saturday, the minister pointed out that the committee was interested in the daily life of the Arab citizen in Great Jamahiryah and Tunisia and had a significant role in bolstering the unionist orientation between the two countries.

The Tunisian minister lauded the existing cooperation, in various fields, between Great Jamahiryah and Tunisia. He pointed out that there were numerous projects which were implemented amongst them the Ras Ajdir-Ben Qardan road

realized by al Mahabet company of Great Jamahiryah and the Tunisian company Somatra... as well as projects in the process of realisation which demonstrated the depth of political determination of the leader of the revolution and president Zine el Abidine Ben Ali in implementation of the aspirations and hopes of the Arab people of the two sisterly countries.

The minister declared that an Arab Libyan-Tunisian consultancy bureau for engineering studies was set up and that it had already started its activities by conducting studies in engineering spheres within the two countries.

The minister stressed the need to hasten the establishment of the structures and institutions of the union as a nucleus for the realisation of total Arab unity. He highlighted the deep changes and the big blocs taking place in the world. He added "Europe's major steps towards unity should make us work earnestly for the building up of an Arab economic force which is our path to the greater unity."

He said "We the people of the Arab nation have all components and resources which may enable us to realise the sought after unity for we are bound together by many factors including language, religion, customs, traditions and common history."

The minister concluded his statement by calling for the implementation of ratified accords between the two countries within the framework of the supreme committee for follow up between Great Jamahiryah and Tunisia.

Libya Said Denying Sudan Oil in 'Silent Crisis'

PM1612153191 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 11-17 Dec 91 p 17

[Unattributed report: "Al-Turabi Behind New Tension in Libyan-Sudanese Relations"]

[Text] AL-MAJALLAH has learned that Libya has conveyed to Sudan its refusal to renew the contract, which expired on 1 December, under which Sudan was supplied with Libyan oil. This occured after the Sudanese Government rejected a Libyan request for payment in cash or in Sudanese goods because of its own economic difficulties.

The Libyan decision comes in the wake of the silent crisis between Libya and Sudan. The crisis, which has not yet come out into the open, is a result of Libya's dissatisfaction with the policies of the [National] Islamic Front [NIF] led by Hasan al-Turabi and Libya's fear that the NIF could carry out activities similar to those already witnessed in Tunisia and Algeria.

The Libyan-Sudanese crisis and al-Turabi's refusal to make a comprehensive revision of the NIF policies to try to improve its image and relations with other states such as Egypt and Libya have probably resulted in a split within the NIF, leading to the dismissal of some of the hard-line elements opposed to al-Turabi's policy which undermined the NIF's relations with a number of states, the latest being Libya.

Mauritania

Minister Leaves Post To Head Election Campaign

AB1312142191 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 1230 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] The Mauritanian Government has been slightly reshuffled. Finance Minister Sidi Mohamed Ould Boubaker will henceforth be the interim minister of fisheries and maritime economy. Mohamed Lemine Ould Ahmad, former minister of fisheries and maritime economy, leaves the government to lead the electoral campaign of the Mauritanian head of state, Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, for the presidential elections slated for 24 January 1992. Col. Taya is therefore the first official candidate in this election.

Correction to Interview With Syria's Khaddam

LD1512103191

The following correction pertains to the item subheadlined "Discusses Peace process" published in the Mauritania section of the 13 December Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 30:

Paragraph six, sentence two make read: ...We also endeavor to do all we can to improve relations... (clearing indistinct words per monitor recheck)

Paragraph eight, first sentence, make read: ...[Khaddam] You know the conditions in which the Washington negotiations began. We have always said that we want a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of international legitimacy. You know that a proposal was made to implement the Security Council resolutions, and we agreed. The first round began.... (clearing indistinct words and rewording per monitor recheck, picking up sentence four)

Paragraph nine, only sentence, make read... second round of negotiations hosted these days by Washington. [new graf] [Khaddam] The fate of the Golan Heights... (clearing indistinct words, deleting editorial notation per monitor recheck, picking up last graf, sentence one)

Last paragraph, sentence three, make read... one inch of Arab land or the least bit of the Palestinian people's national rights. [end recording]... (clearing indistinct word and rewording per monitor recheck)

Morocco

Government Announces Relations Resumed With Iran

LD1612113191 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1051 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] Rabat, 16 Dec (MAP)—A statement issued by the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

today states that the Kingdom of Morocco and the Islamic Republic of Iran have decided to resume diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level.

The statement indicates that the resumption of relations between the two countries is attributed to the historic relations that through the centuries have brought together the two Muslim countries—the Kingdom of Morocco and the Islamic Republic of Iran—and their brotherly peoples. The resumption is also due to their desire for the continuation, bolstering, and development of these ties. They have resumed relations based on their belief in the need for cooperation between them to serve the goals of the Islamic nation in realizing the greatness, glory, and progress of their peoples.

Sudan

Further on Visit of Iran's Hashemi-Rafsanjani

Denies 'Terrorist Center' Moved to Sudan

LD1612182791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Speaking at a news conference at the end of his official three-day visit to Sudan, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani rejected the claims of some Western media that Iran has dispatched military forces to Sudan. He said: Sudan has no need of military forces and has enough human resources of its own. The president added: Our discussions centered on technical, economic, and trade issues.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani was taking part in a joint news conference with Sudan's President 'Umar al-Bashir. He added: Islamic countries should avoid any pretext that will be used as a tool to instigate sedition and schism among the Islamic ummah [community]. The president emphasized the pivotal role of Islam and said: One of the aims of my visit to Sudan was to establish unity among the ranks of Muslims.

In reply to a question asked by the correspondent of AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT concerning claims made by Western media that Iran intends to transfer its terrorist center in Lebanon to Sudan, he said: International observers who are fair know that we, more than anyone else, are the victims of terrorism and that we have worked more than others to prevent terrorism. He added: We tried to solve the problem of hostage-taking in Lebanon, but Israel, by not releasing Lebanese prisoners, is obstructing this move.

The president expressed satisfaction with his visit to Sudan and said: We discussed with the Sudanese officials issues related to technical, construction, oil, road construction, water, agriculture and trade matters, and the exchange of goods and the training of specialist forces.

In reply to an Egyptian reporter concerning the basis of cooperation between Islamic countries in confronting the economic conspiracies of the West, he said: Naturally, those who share interests in common should cooperate, and economic cooperation is a good basis for cooperation among Muslims. With regard to cooperation between Iran and Sudan, the president said: Sudan wants an Islamic government, and we hope that the rest of the countries will cooperate in this connection. No one should worry about this. [passage omitted]

'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, head of the Revolutionary Command Council of the National Salvation Party, also expressed delight at his discussions with Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and said that this meeting was very successful. He said: This meeting could mean great support for the unity of the Islamic world. He described the reforms carried out in his country as steps toward the Islamicization of the country.

Army Chief Meets Iranian Military Commander Reza'i

EA1612205091 Khartoum SUNA in French 0914 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Dec (SUNA)—General Hasan 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali, Sudanese Army chief of staff [COS], met Major General Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, in the presence of Maj. Gen. (retired) 'Uthman Muhammad Hasan, minister of state for defense; assistants of the COS, and commanders of the popular defense forces in Khartoum on 14 December. The meeting reviewed military cooperation between the two countries and ways of further developing them.

Al-Bashir Seeks 'Normalcy' in Ties With Egypt

NC1312165991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Dec (MENA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese national salvation revolution, has expressed his appreciation for Egypt and for President Husni Mubarak. In this respect, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir praised the role played by Egypt and President Mubarak in support of the Sudanese revolution immediately after it began.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir made these remarks during his meeting with Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman, Sudanese state minister and secretary general of the Sudanese Popular Friendship Council, who briefed him on the outcome of his 10-day visit to Cairo, which ended Monday.

Dr. 'Uthman stated that Lt. Gen. al-Bashir expressed during the meeting his hope that the coming stage will see an exchange of visits by Egyptian and Sudanese delegations to restore normalcy to their bilateral relations. He emphasized in this respect that the relations between the two countries are special and noted that his recent visit to Cairo had led to positive results. He added that Lt. Gen. al-Bashir emphasized that the visit gave a strong impetus to bilateral relations.

Meanwhile, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir emphasized during a reception hosted for the Egyptian delegation taking part in an international conference on African studies currently being held in Khartoum that the Sudanese Government and people are interested in consolidating and promoting relations with Egypt. He added that the Sudanese Government will do its best to stimulate bilateral relations.

Tunisia

Foreign Minister Views Fundamentalist 'Threat'

PM1612132191 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Dec 91 p 4

[Interview with Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya by Raghidah Dirgham in Dakar; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Dirgham] Do you not have a crisis with the fundamentalist tendencies in Algeria, who are causing a crisis for the Algerian Government?

[Ben Yahya] As far as we are concerned there is no dispute or crisis with anyone. Tunisia believes in peaceful coexistence, and its democratic experiment is not for export. And we also believe that the other states' experiments should not be exported to any state.

We respect all ideas, but we have principles and laws. The Tunisian Constitution stipulates that Tunisia is a Muslim country. And Tunisian law says that we should differentiate between religion—it is the common denominator among all Tunisians—and politics, over which we differ. The two subjects should not be confused. If other parties want to think otherwise, that is up to them, but they should not impose their view on Tunisia.

[Dirgham] And how would you assess the fundamentalist tendency's threat to the Tunisian Government?

[Ben Yahya] The Tunisian Government is in harmony with all the political parties. And all Tunisians stood united against that destructive tendency, which is based on striking terror into Tunisians' hearts and on violence and terrorism, too. So it was a decisive stand. Matters were clear, and Tunisian public opinion was acquainted with all the facts of the case. And there was consensus on the democratic concepts and the orientation consolidated by the change launched in Tunisia on 7 November (1987, when President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali assumed power). The crisis has been settled, and Tunisian justice will have its say with regard to these people. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] You said that the question was settled. Was that by force?

[Ben Yahya] It was they who used force, and we settled it with a recourse to the law.

[Dirgham] Do you mean that the threat to the Tunisian Government posed by these tendencies has been completely contained?

[Ben Yahya] The threat is not to the Tunisian Government but to Tunisian society, which took a united stand. Do not portray it as a problem between the government and that group. It is a question which has crystallized a consensus against violence and against the exploitation of religion.

[Dirgham] Tunisia wants Algeria to hand over some fundamentalists whom it wants to bring to trial. What have the two governments achieved in that regard?

[Ben Yahya] These are terrorists, and there is a case against them before Tunisian justice.

[Dirgham] Will they be handed over to you?

[Ben Yahya] That is a matter for the judiciary.

[Dirgham] Have you not requested that?

[Ben Yahya] I said that the Tunisian Government has referred the case to the justice system, which will refer it to the courts and which have their own ways of handling that issue. The file is now in the hands of Tunisian justice.

[Dirgham] What role is Tunisia playing now to ease the crisis between Tripoli and Washington over the Lockerbie case, which it is feared could lead to a military strike or economic sanctions against Libya?

[Ben Yahya] It is a crisis, and the Maghreb Union—through its head, His Majesty King Hassan II, is making creditable efforts. And all the other Maghreb Union member states are contributing to a solution. We agreed at a meeting we held here in Dakar at the Maghreb Union foreign ministers' conference on three principles: First, all the Maghreb Union states condemn terrorism in all its forms, regardless of its source. And Tunisia has a stand with regard to the Pan Am plane and the French plane (blown up over Niger) with which all the other Maghreb Union member states agree.

Second, if there are accused people, the case should be dealt with by internationally acceptable laws and conventions. And there is Maghreb and international unanimity that the crisis should be resolved within a legal framework.

Third, international attempts, including Tunisian and Maghreb Union efforts, should be made to contain the crisis and resolve it peacefully.

These are the three points which the Maghreb Union member states adopted and which I believe the (Islamic) summit will adopt in a draft resolution.

[Dirgham] Libya says that there is no agreement between it and the United States or Britain on the extradition of criminals, and it is refusing to hand over those accused of bombing the U.S. plane. What is your opinion on this, and have you advised Libya to hand over the defendants to the United States, Britain, or an Arab state?

[Ben Yahya] Reconciliation efforts are being made because all states are agreed on the arbitration of international law or national (local) law. So the attempts are continuing to find a solution. And we hope that a formula acceptable to both sides will be reached. It is futile to talk now about how the issue should be handled. What is important is to find a peaceful solution so that we will not escalate matters at a time when we are talking about peace in the region and the Middle East peace process. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Amir Notes 'New World Order', GCC Tasks

JN1612082891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Manama, 16 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin- Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, has called for the continuation and consolidation of the cooperative march of the Arabian Gulf states so as to be in line with the regional and international developments and in harmony with the aspirations for stability and prosperity of their peoples.

In a speech on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of his assumption of power and the 20th anniversary of Bahrain's national day today, his highness called on the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states to rally behind their major joint issues and goals of sincere cooperation, integrated development, security, and stability. [passage omitted]

Following is the text of his highness the amir of Bahrain's speech:

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate;

Our dear people, peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you,

The 30th anniversary of our assumption of power and the 20th anniversary of our glorious national day have come amid unprecedented regional and international developments, which stand as incentive for us to adhere to our national constants and entrenched achievements, and to work seriously to develop them in order to cope with these developments that represent a historical opportunity for the prevalence of peace and stability for all nations.

These changes bear the hope of entrenching a new world order that is based on the principles of comprehensive justice and sincere cooperation among the nations as well as principles of international legitimacy which respect the entity and territorial border of every state, and guarantee its existence freely on its full national soil without claims or demands from any party.

Under this order, sisterly Kuwait was liberated, its legitimate system returned to it, its borders were fixed as they used to be, and stability and security were restored to all countries of the region in order to resume a new stage of stability, construction, free and dignified life for all peoples of the region through joint respect and cooperation among all, in a manner that oversteps the reasons and policies that led to the previous crises, and in a new approach that has sound principles and practices.

While we are watching the dawn of this new stage following the dangerous crisis that befell the region, looking forward to a better future, we should register for history that our Bahraini people, with its various groups and sections, has backed its leadership and government throughout the crisis, thus, proving its total loyalty to the homeland and its legitimate entity. It extended what brotherhood's duty necessitated toward sisterly Kuwait, and did not spare sacrifices whether in shouldering the responsibilities at home, or on the battlefield and in the airspace where our heroic sons of the Bahraini Defense Force fully carried out their duty alongside the sisterly and allied forces in the battle for the liberation of Kuwait and the return of legitimacy to it.

We would like here to pay a special tribute to the positions and policies of our wise government which, throughout the crisis, managed to introduced effective economic and security measures. When things relaxed once again and stability was restored to the region, our government initiated calculated, energetic activity to encourage national economy, attract international investors, and make Bahrain a base for the development and reconstruction of the entire region so as to provide affluence for citizens and create job opportunities for the new generations of the youth of this beloved homeland.

On the foreign level, the State of Bahrain—leadership and people—greatly appreciates the role of fraternal nations; primarily, Saudi Arabia, and friendly international forces, in containing the crisis in the Gulf and facing aggression against the principles of international legitimacy with firmness and brave sacrifices. Most prominent among the results of this was this new openness and stability the region is witnessing. We must closely work to perpetuate and protect these gains from any new violation of any borders in the region.

Proceeding from a principled concern for implementing all the rules of international legitimacy without discrimination, we are now witnessing the march of the Middle East peace process, in spite of the challenges and difficulties that are expected to face such a momentous, historic process. We hope that a comprehensive, just peace will be established in the region, in a way that ensures the national rights of the fraternal Palestinian people and all Arab rights, provides peace and security for all the states of the region, creates stability and devotes resources to reconstruction and providing the requirements of a decent living for the people of the region who have suffered a great deal as a result of war.

To accomplish this historic achievement for the region and the world, the State of Bahrain, along with its GCC brothers, has supported the peaceful efforts of all parties concerned. Experience has proven that peace is indivisible; tension can also be transmitted from one area into another. If we want to achieve a permanent peace, therefore, we must first achieve a comprehensive peace. This, we believe, is the most prominent of the tasks of the new international order, if this new order is to prevail worldwide. [passage omitted]

In foreign policy, Bahrain can view its international relations with satisfaction. For Bahrain has established positive relations with major world powers and with all the Security Council permanent members. Our traditional friendship with the United States has continued,

developed, and entered a new phase of economic and strategic cooperation. At the same time, we have started a new age of relations of friendship and cooperation with the USSR, the PRC, and continued to develop our relations with the European Community and Japan.

As for the Gulf region, if detente and openness have started to prevail in the world and the region after its recent crisis, we hope the GCC march would continue and develop to keep pace with new regional and international developments, in keeping with the Gulf people's aspirations for stability and progress. To achieve this, we believe that the GCC states must once again rally around their joint causes and their great objectives of sincere cooperation, integrated development, and joint security. Rallying around these objectives and giving precedence to them will deepen harmony and accord among the GCC states and make them a positive factor that influences regional and international balance. We hope to achieve all these aspirations at the Kuwait summit, by virtue of our responsibility toward our nation and the world. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Syrian Prime Minister Pays Visit, Meets Leaders

Al-Zu'bi Receives Shaykh Salim

JN1612203591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] Kuwait—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, here at 1630 today. The meeting was attended by Nasir Qaddur, Syrian minister of state for foreign affairs; Nasir 'Abdallah al-Ridan, Kuwaiti minister of finance and head of the mission of honor; Dr. Mustafa al-Haj 'Ali, Syria's ambassador in Kuwait; and Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim, Kuwait's ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting, they discussed the importance of reinforcing the Arab position and supporting the pan-Arab bases of the Damascus Declaration. They also discussed issues pertaining to the peace march, through which the Arabs have proved their eagerness to achieve a just and comprehensive peace and have exposed Israel's intransigent position on real peace to the international community and world public opinion. In addition, they talked about ways to strengthen cooperation between Syria and Kuwait in all areas.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi also received 'Abdallah Hasan al- Jarallah, Kuwaiti minister of commerce and Industry, and Nasir 'Abdallah al-Ridan, Kuwaiti minister of finance. The meeting was attended by Salim Yasin, Syrian deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, Syrian minister of economy and foreign trade; Muhammad Khalid al-Mahayini, Syrian minister of finance; Dr. Mustafa al-Haj 'Ali, Syria's ambassador in Kuwait; and Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim, Kuwait's ambassador in Damascus.

The talks centered on economic, trade, and investment cooperation between Syria and Kuwait, as well as ways to promote it to achieve the mutual interests of the two fraternal countries.

Closed Meeting, Joint Talks Held

NC1712110091 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Excerpts] His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al- Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, received Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi in Bayan Palace at 1030 this morning in a a closed meeting. Joint talks between the two fraternal countries were held later. The Kuwaiti side was chaired by His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah and the Syrian side was chaired by engineer Mahmud al-Zu'bi. [passage omitted]

Talks focused on the firm fraternal ties between the two fraternal countries and ways of bolstering cooperation in all fields, in addition to new developments in both Arab and international arenas and other issues of joint interest.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Chairs Cabinet Meeting on Dakar Summit

LD1612171591 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Medina al-Munawwarah, 16 Dec (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, presided over a meeting of the Council of Ministers today at Tibah Palace in Medina.

Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir told SPA after the meeting that the council first heard the crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, reporting on the results of the sixth Islamic summit conference held in Dakar. [passage omitted]

The information minister added that the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, expressed his deep satisfaction and utmost appreciation of the successful efforts made by his royal highness the crown prince at the conference, and of the effective role through which he contributed toward ensuring the success of the aims and objectives of the conference, as indicated in the contents of the Dakar Declaration. [passage omitted]

Pakistani Chief of Staff Arrives in Riyadh

LD1612213591 Riyadh SPA in English 1938 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 16. SPA—Gen. Asif Nawaz, chief of the Pakistan Army and his accompanying delegation arrived here today for talks with the officials of the Saudi Defense Ministry.

He was greeted on arrival by Lieut. Gen Salih al-Mohaya, commander of the land forces, many high-ranking officers and the Pakistani ambassador to the Kingdom, Waliullah Khan.

Shortly after arrival, the Pakistani military delegation held talks with Gen. Muhammad Salih al-Hamad, the chief of the General Staff and Lieut. General al-Mohaya.

United Arab Emirates

Omani Petroleum Minister Arrives in Abu Dhabi

LD1612214391 Riyadh SPA in English 1250 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 16, SPA—Omani Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Sa'id Bin-Ahmad al-Shanfari arrived in Abu Dhabi on Monday on a 24-hour visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

In a statement to the OMANI NEWS AGENCY, al-Shanfari said he will have talks with his UAE counterpart on oil and economic issues of interest to the two countries.

Republic of Yemen

Salih Addresses Military Officers, Warns Enemies

JN1512204791 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, accompanied by brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, and Salim Salih Muhammad and 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, members of the Presidential Council, has attended the opening session of the annual training course for Armed Forces commanders. The brother commander in chief of the Armed Forces delivered a guidance speech in which he expressed thanks to the Defense Ministry and the Army General Staff for their accurate preparation for this expanded meeting of Armed Forces commanders. [passage omitted]

The brother chairman said: We are confident that our brothers, our comrades-in-arms in the Armed Forces and the security services, are up to the responsibility needed at this important stage in our people's life. We knew that our country would face many obstacles after unity had been achieved, just as the Yemeni revolutions of 26 September and 14 October faced challenges when they were staged. [passage omitted]

The brother chairman added: You must confront all rumors and challenges firmly and courageously. If we always talk about the heroes and brave people who defended the revolution and the Republic, then we will, in the future, talk about the people who achieved unity, defended it, and confronted all the challenges it faced.

The brother chairman pointed out that the tasks are immense and great, but the challenges are greater. He said: We in the political leadership are confident that our colleagues and comrades-in-arms are up to the necessary level of responsibility and maturity, and that they are the safety valve of the revolution and the unity. We have to shoulder the responsibility of building this country. This is not the responsibility of an individual or a group, nor is it the responsibility of the Presidential Council or the government. This is the responsibility of all political forces on the national scene and of all institutions. We are a democratic country, a country of institutions; democracy is our only option. The Armed Forces are a national institution where military discipline should prevail. This institution is the guarantee for security, stability, and the protection of democracy. [passage omitted]

The brother chairman and commander in chief of the Armed Forces urged immunity for members of the Armed Forces and security services against defamation attempts by some newspapers—campaigns that go against the national interest. Some people imagine, the brother chairman explained, that by way of such campaigns they can move time backward and return the imams and the sultans. He stressed that this will never happen, and that the honorable strugglers who offered their lives to protect the revolution and the Republic will fight until the last drop of their blood to protect unity and entrench its foundations. Concluding, he expressed wishes for success for the training course. [passage omitted]

Saddam Meets Military Industrialization Experts

JN1612153991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1523 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today met with a number of industry and military industrialization experts to acquaint himself with their accomplishments in their field and their efforts to supply other state sectors with their needs.

The president expressed great appreciation for these efforts and praised the experts' faithful and creative abilities.

The meeting was attended by Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, chief of the Presidential Office.

Defense Minister Inspects 1st Army Corps Sector

JN1612213691 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] Staff Lieutenant General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and defense minister, inspected the 1st Army Corps operational sector over the last two days. The minister met with the commanders of the corps, divisions, formations, units, and services, as well as with fighters representing the corps' units.

He studied with them the obstacles hampering their work and the solutions needed to resolve them.

The RCC member and defense minister highly valued the militant stand of the heroic fighters of the corps and their high morale in defending Iraq's security and sovereignty against the plots of the enemies and agents.

The defense minister was reassured with the good administrative performance in the units of the corps, as well as with the high morale of the brave fighters and their readiness to defend great Iraq.

Reserve Officers Demobilized; Instability Denied

JN1612201891 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Dec 91

[From "The Armed Forces" program]

[Text] Leader President Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has ordered the demobilization of Class 31 of reserve officers as of Saturday, 14 December 1991. This was announced by Staff Lieutenant General Salah 'Abbud, assistant chief of staff for administration. He said that other classes of reserve officers will be demobilized in accordance with a timetable that has been prepared and will be implemented in the next few weeks. Classes 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30 of reserve officers were demobilized after the end of the 30-state aggression against our brave and steadfast Iraq.

The demobilization of Class 31 reflects the ability of our heroic armed forces to protect great Iraq and to safeguard its independence, security, and the dignity of its people. At the same time, it constitutes a slap in the face of the base Atlanticists, who claim that the situation in Iraq is unstable and shaky. The comrade reserve officers have carried out the duty of defending dear Iraq. We hope that they will help in the field of jihad and construction to build Iraq, to maintain its lasting glory, and to safeguard its might and the dignity of its people under the towering symbol of Arabism, Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn.

Arabs Working for Foreign Media Asked To Leave

JN1612210291 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Dec 91

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] An Iraqi Information Ministry official in Baghdad has stated that Arab journalists working for foreign media have been asked to leave Iraq to make it easier to control the non-Iraqi Arab journalists who can enter and leave Iraq without visas.

Spokesman on Iranian Position for War Reparations

JN1712114491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA)—An official spokesman for the Foreign Ministry has made the following statement to INA:

Tehran radio stated at noon on 16 December 1991 that Habibi, the Iranian Government's official spokesman, announced at his weekly news conference that because of the United Nation's failure to take any steps toward forcing Iraq to pay war reparations, as he called them, and because Iraq is the aggressor, as he claimed, Iran can work in accordance with the international agreements outside the articles of Resolution 598. Habibi also called on the UN secretary general to implement all the articles of Resolution 598 before his term of office comes to an end. What an Iraqi poet once said applies to what Habibi has uttered. An Iraqi poet said: Shut up, O miserable man; who will save you tomorrow. Your wicked nature has been exposed.

The spokesman said: This erroneous statement comes within the framework of the rabid campaign launched by the deceptive Iranian propaganda, which is supported by the Zionist media, in a desperate attempt to distort the firm and clear facts which prompt the Iranian regime toward aggression and treachery.

The spokesman noted that Habibi and the other leaders of the Iranian regime know full well that they are the ones who embarked on the aggression against Iraq when they shelled Iraq's cities and villages on 4 September 1980 with heavy artillery, continued the war against Iraq, rejected just peace based on international legitimacy, and denied the Security Council authority.

The spokesman stressed that the Iranian officials are well aware that they approved Resolution 598 only after an

all-out military defeat had been inflicted on them. Now, he added, they are attempting to absolve themselves of the criminal aggression they launched against Iraq by enlisting the support of the personal opinions of Javier Perez de Cuellar, which have no legal basis. Meanwhile, and while it was confronting their aggression, Iraq was the first to accept the first resolution passed by the Security Council on 28 September 1980; namely, Resolution 479.

The spokesman went on to say: It is ironic that Habibi views himself as a magistrate to judge Iraq, sometimes using Resolution 598 and at other times acting outside the context of that resolution—something which confirms the soundness of our conclusions regarding the game meant to be peddled in contravention of historical facts and international legitimacy.

The spokesman said: If the Iranian regime is ready for peace, so is Iraq, especially since it is the party which persisted in its peace endeavors and culminated them with the initiative declared by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on 14 August 1990, the initiative torn apart by the Iranian regime during the chapter of treason and treachery.

Concluding his statement, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said: The Iranian officials must realize that their first duty toward the Iranian peoples is to abandon charlatanry and deception, and to sit for face-to-face negotiations at a negotiating table to translate the principles contained in the Iraqi initiative into a comprehensive, durable, just, and honorable settlement of all causes of the conflict between the two countries on the basis of respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, noninterference in internal affairs, and good neighborliness. If indeed their intentions witness an improvement, they must forget about running after delusions, which were manifested by the statements made by Habibi and others. This is necessary if they seek to serve their peoples and promote regional security and peace. Otherwise, the Iraqi people will lie in wait for them to thwart their schemes, sedition, and suspect deals.

Iranian-U.S. 'New Deal' Against Iraq Discussed

JN1712124291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA)—AL-'IRAQ has said that there are signs of a new deal between Iran and the United States similar to the Irangate deal or scandal revealed in 1986. In an article published today, AL-'IRAQ says: The Iranian side tried to prepare for this deal by launching an intensive media campaign against the United States and by holding an Islamic conference to counter the Madrid conference in order to mislead Iranian, Arab, and world public opinion into believing that Iran is still in the trench opposing imperialism and Zionism.

The Iraqi paper notes that the signs of the new deal are not hidden. The American and British hostages have been released by pro-Iranian organizations in Lebanon; and the $278 million that was frozen in American banks has been released, after claims that it was a debt owed to the U.S. Government.

AL-'IRAQ says that the secret part of the deal will certainly be related to Iraq, because the two parties seek to destroy it politically, economically, and militarily, as well as to destroy its role in the region. In fact, the Iranian side, which swallowed the poison in 1988 and was defeated by the Iraqis, hopes to achieve its expansionist dreams after the 30-state aggression against Iraq.

The paper adds: In accordance with the deal, the United Nations—which spoke about Iran's violations of human rights—and the International Red Cross, stopped convincing Iran to allow their representatives to visit the Iraqi prisoners of war or register their names. None of the officials in these two bodies bothered to search for the thousands of Iraqis who were kidnapped and taken to detention camps by the Iranian regime officials, undeterred by conscience or religion, during the 30-state aggression against Iraq.

AL-'IRAQ says: The American side, which benefited from the results of the aggression against Iraq, obtained the release of the hostages and tamed the Iranian regime with money; it is also working to liquidate the Palestine question, tighten control over the Arab region, and have free access to the Arab nation's wealth in accordance with its interests.

Aborting this conspiratorial deal requires moves on all political and media levels to enlighten Arab, Islamic, and world public opinion with the reality of the situation.

Concluding, AL-'IRAQ says: Iraq is the homeland of everybody; and the Arab homeland is the homeland of all the honest sons of the nation. The conspiratorial moves must be exposed and all aspects of the deal should be revealed before they are implemented.

Resolution on Zionism Tests UN Independence

JN1612174491 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1520 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Untitled "editorial" "edited" by Hisham 'Awdah; from "The Radio Newspaper" program]

[Text] Under pressure from Washington and at its instructions, the UN General Assembly will hold a discussion today to reconsider its 1975 resolution labelling Zionism a racist movement. Washington made threats and intimidations and set 17 December as the deadline for repealing the resolution; the world must listen and obey. Also today—and at America's desire—bilateral negotiations between the Zionist enemy and some Arabs resume in Washington.

Is it merely a coincidence that the negotiations resume on the same day that the United Nations announces its word about the resolution on Zionism? The United States will brandish its stick; it will threaten and menace;

and it will throw all its weight behind rescinding the resolution and acquitting Zionism. The United Nations and its General Assembly will be put to a major humanitarian test in defending their identity, independence, and decision. They have to prove that they are not subservient to the will of the White House and the desire of George Bush and the Zionist lobby behind him.

Zionism is a racist movement. This is a fact known by the entire world, a fact acknowledged by the world at the United Nations 16 years ago. No matter how powerful and influential the United States may be, it will not be able to abolish the racist nature of Zionism or to acquit it of its shameful aggressive acts.

The nations of the world today are called upon to defend their will and rights against terrorist U.S.-Zionist hegemony and domination. We refer those who want to verify that Zionism is really a racist movement to the Zionist practices against our Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories, as well as to Zionist history, which is rife with crimes, massacres, and aggression.

Leniency by nations toward the U.S. draft resolution will constitute a serious precedence against the United Nations, its history, and its independence. Consequently, it will open the door for U.S. and Zionist lust to rescind all the international resolutions they do not like.

Zionism is a racist movement, whether the Americans like it or not. The will of the world will triumph, and racism and terrorism will continue to be a label and a tattoo on the entire history of Zionism and its practices. Zionism will continue to be condemned by all of the world's nations and peoples.

Arab-Israeli 'Fictitious Peace' Conference Viewed

JN1712102891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH affirms that the United States is attempting to make the Arabs surrender before the Arab masses manage to awaken from the horror of the crime it committed against the Arab nation on Iraqi territory.

In an article entitled "From Aggression to Settlement," the paper adds that the United States wants to peddle its peace, which is tantamount to a conspiracy against the Arab nation, before the blood of Iraqi children, women, and elderly people at the al-'Amiriyah shelter dries.

The paper notes that the fictitious peace conference held in Madrid complements the heinous crime which targeted Iraq, the symbol of Arab capability. The paper adds: The United States, along with its Western and Zionist allies, mobilized their troops; deployed aircraft, battleships, fleets, and tanks loaded with weapons of mass destruction; and dropped their hateful bombs and missiles on children, women, and elderly people. They destroyed bridges, buildings, schools, water and power stations, hospitals, and archaeological sites; not to mention the unfair economic blockade they imposed on Iraq.

AL-THAWRAH maintains that the U.S. endeavors to convene the Madrid settlement conference were made in unbalanced international and regional circumstances in the wake of the destruction inflicted on Iraq and the frenzied attempts to abort Iraqi military capabilities. The paper wonders: What kind of peace could the United States desire for the Arabs after the heinous crimes it committed in Iraq? What kind of international law does the United States seek to honor in our homeland after we have grown to know the ugly features of this law in the course of its attempts to impose it on Iraq through military force?

Concluding its article, the paper says: The furious Arab masses, who are following the chapters of the travesty of the fictitious peace, will thwart this new U.S. conspiracy, and prevent it from confiscating the Arab dream of a new Arab dawn.

U.S. 'Plan' for Gulf Demographic Change Exposed

JN1412143091 Baghdad INA in English 1305 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 14, INA—AL-QADISIYAH daily, organ of the Ministry of Defence, said the emirates of the Arab Gulf and Saudi Arabia were being exposed to an American-Israeli plan aimed at changing their demographic structure and turning them into bases of conspiracy and espionage against the Arabs and other states of the region.

In a report published today, the daily added that these Gulf states were in possession of the world's largest oil reserve and that their geographic position overlooking the strategic passages and waterways had motivated the American and Israeli circles to orchestrate this plan in an attempt to replace their Arab population by foreigners through service institutions and economic bodies and companies.

The daily pointed out that in addition to the security pacts some of these states had signed with Washington, they also cleared the way for direct and indirect economic cooperation with Israel.

It quoted some Arab citizens who were in the Gulf as saying that the rulers of the six emirates and Saudi Arabia had given hundreds of Jews the chance to penetrate into companies and projects run by the United States, Britain or Jews carrying Canadian, French and German passports and provided others with an opportunity to set up bubble companies used as a cover for spying activities.

According to confirmed reports, the paper said that the Israeli Mosad managed to recruit into its service members of the ruling families in the Gulf, particularly the teenagers and youth, on the pretext of chairing seemingly export and import companies actually established to spread drug addiction in Gulf countries.

Referring to the hurdles placed by the Arab Gulf states and Saudi Arabia in the way of Arab employees, even those whose countries had taken part in the alliance against Iraq, it said that facts revealed that intensive pressure had been exerted by the American Central Intelligence Agency on the Gulf rulers to expel the Arabs working in their countries, bring foreign labour force and encourage their people to live in European countries.

The daily called the attention to the overt Israeli role in these serious changes, pointing to statements by some Israeli officials in Tel Aviv about operating telephone lines between Israel and the six Arab Gulf states. It warned that the settlement project led by Washington in cooperation with its main allies could leave holes in the Arab nation's structure through which Israel could easily penetrate into the region.

Kurdistan Front Plans To Holds Elections 'Soon'

NC1612160991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] The Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] has announced that the Kurdistan Front has decided to hold elections, giving the Kurds their first chance to elect a representative to a constituent assembly. The KDP distributed a statement saying that the goal of the elections is to enhance the front's decisionmaking process, establish an elected body with a popular mandate to make decisions on vital matters related to autonomy negotiations, and to consolidate law and order in Kurdish areas.

The Front will invite foreign observers and representatives to supervise the elections. The KDP said that a committee of experts will submit a plan detailing arrangements for the elections soon.

Further on 'National Council' Elections

PM1612170791 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Dec 91 p 4

[Zuhayr Qusaybati report: "Talabani Says: "We Set Conditions for Resuming Dialogue With Baghdad"]

[Excerpt] London—The Kurdistan Front has set conditions for resuming the dialogue with Baghdad and started to prepare for holding elections in Iraqi Kurdistan. Jalal Talabani, joint leader of the Front, invited the United Nations to supervise them.

Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, has told AL-HAYAH that the Front met the day before yesterday in Khalifan in northern Iraq, approved measures to elect a Kurdish "national council," and "formed a committee of jurists which has been assigned to study the organization of the elections and complete its mission within two weeks."

He reiterated that the "elections have become the Kurdish masses' demand, and it is the council which will decide whether to accept or reject the agreement with Baghdad and then supervise its implementation if the agreement is approved, or govern the (Kurdish) region if the agreement fails, that is, on the basis of the implementation of autonomy in Kurdistan.

He pointed out that he did not participate in the meeting attended by Democratic Party of Kurdistan leader Mas'ud Barzani and a delegation from the Union. He indicated that he had not met with Barzani since his recent return from Baghdad: "But there is no major disagreement between us." He said that the "national council will be the arbiter in settling the disagreement over interpretations inside the Front. And there are 3.5 million Kurds (in northern Iraq) who want elections in order to exercise their right to participate in determining their future."

He emphasized that during the meeting the Front set "conditions for resuming the frozen dialogue with the Iraqi Government." They are: lifting of the economic blockade on Kurdistan; and exclusion from the region of Iraqi Army, security, and military intelligence organs, given that the Front guarantees civilian employees' safety and ability to work freely and the government pays their frozen salaries. This would be in return for the peshmergas' (Kurdish fighters) withdrawal from the major cities in northern Iraq. But he added that the Front insists on keeping a number of fighters in these cities "to defend the centers of their parties."

On the fate of the draft agreement with Baghdad, which was reported to have drawn up a "final formula" for the implementation of the autonomy on which it still insists, Talabani said: "No one is calling the dialogue to be broken off. But the question being raised is: How can it be conducted? And I see no results coming from it with the present Iraqi regime."

He denied what was reported by news agencies about a state of chaos and of assassinations and robberies in the Kurdish areas. He pointed out that "no incident disrupting security was recorded during the huge demonstrations staged by the Kurds a few days ago." [passage omitted]

'Uprising' Continues; Governorate Official Missing

NC1612203891 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1410 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] The sons of our rebellious people are continuing their blessed uprising against the 'Aflaqi terror.

In the past few days, our faithful revolutionaries in al-Samawah City have been underlining their solidarity with their people's sons in other cities, chasing flippant Saddam's henchmen and meting out just punishment. A group of our revolutionaries attacked an 'Aflaqi position using RPG's and machine guns, killing some of Saddam's men manning the position, while others fled, severely injured by our heroic revolutionaries.

The popular uprising in the (al-Jaberiyah) area in the Baghdad Governorate is escalating to the extent that the so-called security organs have no role there, especially

once 'Irfan 'Abd-al-'Aziz, who was in charge, disappeared. His fate is not known. God bless the efforts of our sons rebelling against Saddam's hatred, until victory is granted with God's help.

Former Ministers Appointed Party Bureau Members

JN1612212991 Baghdad AL-RAFIDAYN in Arabic 30 Nov 91 p 4

[Text] AL-RAFIDAYN has learned that Comrades 'Abdallah Fadil and Latif Nusayyif Jasim have been appointed members of the Ba'th Party Foreign Relations Bureau.

Comrade Husni 'Ali Nassar was also appointed a member of the Central Bureau of the Professional and Popular Organization.

Republican Decrees Honor 'Martyrs' of Rebellions

JN1612210691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA)—It was announced here today that the martyrs of both the 1959 al-Shawwaf revolution and the 8 February 1963 revolution against the anti-Arab tyrannical group led by 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim have been honored.

Two Republican decrees have been issued honoring three female martyrs and 162 male martyrs of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, as well as other patriotic and pan-Arabist strugglers and officers who sacrificed their souls for the freedom of the country, resisting deviation, despotism, and tyranny and beating back malicious anti-Arabism waves.

The honoring of these martyrs reflects the appreciation of the great Iraqi people and their faithful leader, President Saddam Husayn, for all strugglers and mujahidin who have fought foreign domination and agent regimes and have defended the nation's honor, dignity, and might. [passage omitted]

Al-Da'wah Party Urges Elected Political System

NC1512140391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] The Iraqi Islamic al-Da'wah party yesterday announced that it has elected a political bureau. Two days ago the bureau issued a statement asserting that party cadres are trying to cooperate with other Iraqi opposition forces to intensify efforts to topple Saddam's regime and rescue our Iraqi people from their cruel ordeal.

The statement said that the barrier of fear that used to stand between the dictator Saddam Husayn's regime and our steadfast people has collapsed, while international support for the regime has vanished. This has facilitated Iraqi opposition world political activity.

The Iraqi Islamic movement, the statement noted, has sought to mobilize all capabilities to implement a political, media, and popular program to topple the tyrant's regime, liberate the Iraqi people's will, and establish an alternative political system by independent, free, and popular elections.

AL-RAFIDAYN on Maintaining Readers' Standards

JN1712113191 Baghdad AL-RAFIDAYN in Arabic 7 Dec 91 p 5

[Editorial: "Heading for the Top"]

[Text] The faith and determination which accompanied the publishing of AL-RAFIDAYN under the difficult circumstances associated with the publishing of press publications will continue the upward trend. We seek to reach the top and to maintain the standard expected by the dear reader, who has placed his trust in this faithful and determined group of those working in the Iraqi press.

The difficult circumstances in which we operate lay in the technical and printing requisites, some of which are the result of the unjust siege imposed on great Iraq, while others are the result of general conditions. We, in AL-RAFIDAYN, however, have decided to overcome all these difficulties and embark on better and constant achievements.

In this issue, the dear reader will notice that the production of the magazine has begun to take on a stable shape, and we hope that in the next few issues it will have a distinguished character. The reader will also find that the published articles are closer to the uniqueness which we in AL-RAFIDAYN aspire to.

In all cases, the reader will continue to be the one who judges and supports us toward the standard we are aiming for, and we hope that ours will be his favorite magazine as long as it meets his needs.

Search for Bodies of Troops 'Buried Alive' Begins

JN1312192691 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 11 Dec 91 pp 1, 7

[By Qasim Mahdi]

[Excerpt] The Iraqi Red Crescent Society has announced that the five committees formed last week to search for the remains of Iraqi martyrs, military personnel and civilians, who were buried alive by U.S. forces, have begun their work.

A source told AL-THAWRAH that these committees have deployed throughout the southern bedouin areas of the country. The Red Crescent Society committees are deployed in the Maysan, al-Anbar, al-Muthanna, Dhi Qar, and al-Basrah Governorates. This is in addition to assistance from many citizens who have volunteered to carry out this noble humanitarian mission. [passage omitted]

More Citizens Return From Saudi Detention Camps

JN1612175791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1725 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Al-Samawah, southern Iraq, 16 Dec (INA)—The sixth group of returnees from detention camps on Saudi territory arrived in al-Muthanna Governorate today. The group consists of 45 male and female citizens who have benefited from President Saddam Husayn's noble gesture of pardoning fugitives and deserters. [passage omitted]

Daily Cited on Return of 52 Citizens From Iran

JN1712093191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA)—AL-THAWRAH newspaper has said that 19 Iraqi families, which include 52 citizens forced by the cliques of treason and betrayal to leave their homes and go to Iran, have returned home.

The returnees, among whom are 12 children under five, are benefiting from the general amnesty decided by the Revolution Command Council. [passage omitted]

Kazakhstan, Belarus Delegations To Visit

JN1512131091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1105 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] Moscow, 15 Dec (INA)—Two Soviet delegations from Kazakhstan and Belarus left for Baghdad today on a one-week visit to Iraq.

The Kazakhstan delegation is headed by Ghani Khasimov [name as received], adviser to Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev. The delegation comprises a number of officials from various trade and economic departments and institutions in Kazakhstan.

Rofaeil Khajatorv, director general of Asia Organization and delegation member [name and title as received], told INA correspondent in Moscow that the objective of the trip is to visit Iraq, and activate trade and economic relations between Kazakhstan and Central Asian republics and Iraq.

He expressed his belief that the delegation's task will be successful in light of the good relations between the Central Asian countries and Kazakhstan on the one hand and Iraq on the other. He stressed the depth and strength of the historical ties between these republics and Iraq.

Khajatorv expressed Kazakhstan's readiness to dispatch experts to Iraq, and to extend humanitarian aid, especially in the economic fields within the framework of the friendship and cooperation agreement between the Soviet Union and Iraq.

The Belarus republic's delegation is headed by Gennadiy Nirkifig, deputy chairman of the State Commission for External Economic Relations [name and title as received]. The delegation comprises a number of directors general and officials working at various economic and trade departments and institutions in the Belarus republic.

In a predeparture statement to INA in Moscow, Nirkifig said that the objective of the visit is to establish and cement trade and economic ties with Iraq, promote cooperation, and open direct channels for it with the Belarus republic. He indicated that the delegation is carrying with it a host of proposals on bilateral cooperation. He added that he will discuss these proposals with Iraqi officials, stressing that there are wide and great prospects for this cooperation, especially since Belarus has become an independent republic that seeks to establish extensive ties with other states which are seeking economic and trade cooperation.

Nirkifig noted the great industrial and economic resources and capabilities of the Belarus republic, particularly in the field of automotive industries and other equipment industries. The Belarus republic, he added, could also benefit from Iraq's industrial and economic capabilities. Furthermore, he said, bilateral trade in these fields could be realized.

Housing Minister Leaves for Arab Meeting in Cairo

JN1612090891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA)—Housing and Reconstruction Minister Mahmud Dhiyab al-Ahmad left for Cairo today to take part in the 36th session of the Executive Office of the Arab Housing and Reconstruction Ministers' Council, due to start there next Wednesday [18 December]. [passage omitted]

Shamir, Levi React to Repeal of Zionism Resolution

Levi—'Signal' of 'Solidarity' With U.S.

TA1612201591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Excerpts] The debate on repealing the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism is due to begin in approximately one hour. Over 100 countries have promised to vote for the annulment of the 1975 resolution. [passage omitted]

[Begin Foreign Minister David Levi recording] Beyond the actual decision itself, this is a signal to the Arab world and to many countries that if they believe that there is some sort of rift between the United States and Israel because of this or that disagreement, then here is their answer—we are standing together. This is an expression of solidarity with Israel, the sole democracy in the Middle East, by the greatest nation on earth. The two countries are acting together to erase this stain from the record of the United Nations. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Shamir Sends Thanks to Bush

TA1712063891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi was at the UN General Assembly during the vote that repealed the resolution equating Zionism with racism. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami heard his festive reaction:

[Begin Levi recording] I told you this morning that we had come here to do away with a manifestation of darkness. These words are apt and proper to this historic moment in this big building, which was darkened by many menacing shadows and clouds. Now, once again, we see a shining light. The support was enormous, and our joy is overwhelming. I saw tears in the eyes of the Jewish representatives. To the entire Jewish people and to its national liberation movement, Zionism, this is a great day of victory. It is a triumphant moment for the friendship and alliance between the United States and Israel and a great contribution to the United Nations. I think that those who cast that stigma worked very hard in the past few months to remove it. By doing that, they purged the United Nations of historic guilt. We will continue to wage this struggle. This is a very important arena. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 17 December adds: "Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir phoned President Bush last night and thanked him for his support."]

Editorial Calls Levi-Bush Meeting 'Superfluous'

TA1712124491 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Dec 91 p 2

[Editorial: "A Superfluous Meeting"]

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi's meeting with President Bush is superfluous at best. Besides personal prestige, it has nothing to offer. What are we after? If Levi tells Bush what Shamir tells him, there is no need for it. If he tells him different things, there is even less need for it.

The foreign minister's personal problem can be appreciated, especially when his political approach is preferred. His meeting today, however, will only permit the Americans to continue creating the illusion that there are "good" Israelis and "bad" ones.

There are more than enough problems with the Americans—"routine matters" in diplomatic jargon. However, those who continue to link them to the political process are the Americans. Anyway, there is nothing to talk to them about, especially at the White House level, beyond the framework for the political process.

Shamir Cables Mubarak on Red Sea Accident

TA1612173391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has sent a condolence message to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the accident involving the ferry boat in the Red Sea, in which approximately 470 passengers perished.

Police Enter Silwan Home; Settlers, Arabs Out

TA1612200891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] Jerusalem District Court Judge Tzvi Tal this evening instructed that Upper Bet Hatzofe in Silwan be manned from now on by two policemen, but no settlers. Our police affairs correspondent Shlomo Arad reports that right now an Arab family resides in the house, having entered by virtue of another decree issued today by Judge Ya'aqov Tzaban.

The settlers' attorneys conducted a relentless legal struggle today, at the end of which the district court ordered both parties claiming possession of the house—the settlers and the Arabs—out.

Our correspondent has learned that right now the police are holding consultations on the eviction from the house.

Commentary on Shamir Settlement Policy, U.S. Ties

TA1612144691 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 16 Dec 91 pp 10, 11

[Pinhas 'Inbari commentary: "End of the Era of Expectations and Illusions"]

[Text] The government's approval of the Silwan settlement was not only a well-aimed blow at the political process, but an accurate statement of the government's true designs. This approval delivers a challenge to the Arabs and Americans as well as the Israeli left wing. The

approval may well be the opening shot in both the approaching confrontation with Washington and the struggle within Israel.

Ben-Aharon and Elyaqim Rubinstein did not go to Washington to achieve peace, but to cover the Shamir government's true goal with a fig leaf. The talks are a cover for consolidating the Israeli hold on the territories and East Jerusalem. In the days of the previous process, the so-called "Cairo dialogue," Shamir managed to hoodwink everyone until the very last moment. In the current process, the sobering up came much sooner, and the approval of the Silwan settlement signaled the end of the era of illusion. Shamir is interested only in the sort of peace that will guarantee continued settlement, and since such a peace is unattainable, he will go on sowing illusions about "talks making progress" only to step up the settlement drive. The sweet talk of his aides in Washington is nothing but a diversion.

The Silwan settlement represents a severe encroachment on the boundaries of national consensus—even of the consensus on settlement. And now, having provoked the Palestinians, he is apparently trying to flex a muscle at President Bush and his secretary of state, James Baker, as well as the Israeli left wing. Shamir appears to be using this settlement to force the entire world to accept the ideology of "practical messianism" of the Lehi's [pre-state splinter group of the Irgun] right-wing branch.

This is the fundamental difference between Silwan and the "ordinary" settlement drive. While the general issue of settlement could provoke argument between Labor and the Likud, both of which represent the Israeli parameters of legitimate disagreements about the purpose and the nature of settlement, there can be no argument about the purpose of the Silwan settlement. Shamir demands that the left wing surrender, or else.... The fact that the first Labor protest was staged in Silwan, and not in "ordinary" settlement sites, was no coincidence.

No one can doubt that the yarmulke wearers, those dancing in Arab houses in Silwan, are not there to display the best way to achieve ideal Jewish-Arab relations; they represent an additional link in a chain leading to the Temple Mount. Shamir became the ally of zealots endangering Israel's safety and future by extending his support. This observation may be extremely harsh, but no one understands its implications better than the former Lehi commander.

Recently there have been abundant signs that the Americans have fathomed the Israeli prime minister and that they do not expect him to come up with anything positive. His suspicion that the Americans "have taken out a political contract on him" and that they would like to oust him is well founded. More than one sign indicates that they have launched a pressure campaign on Israel to apprise the Israeli constituents of the full significance of their decision to remain loyal to the Likud—at least as long as Shamir and the likes of him are at the helm.

One sign—perhaps the easiest to discern—was the U.S. indifference to the ridiculous "couch talks" at the State Department. From the beginning, the Americans have not believed that the bilateral talks can promote the peace process, and the Israeli delegation's tardy arrival only confirmed their initial assumptions. The Americans are employing dual tactics. On the one hand, there have been Arab signals of their readiness to attain normalization, and on the other the Americans have signaled their desire to stop giving Israel privileged treatment. They seemed to be saying that Israel will not be able to count on the United States' mercy very long. If it wishes to develop—not to mention survive—it must find its place among the nations of the Middle East. It is patently clear that a government forging an alliance with Israel's most radical streams cannot be up to the challenges of the new era.

The Israel Air Force commander has already stated that the United States does not give preferential treatment to Israel's purchase requests. This is not an isolated episode, but rather—as can be gleaned from other recent developments—a tile in a large mosaic.

Shaykh 'Ubayd's pathetic appearance on Israeli television confirmed the premise that in the wake of the profound changes in the Middle East, the shaykh—who used to represent the radical factions of Hizballah—is no longer the "bargaining chip" on which Israel had relied in its attempts to redeem its POW's and MIA's. On the contrary, after the internal revolution in which Shaykh Subhi Tufayli, a supporter of the Iranian opposition, was ousted in favor of Hashemi-Rafsanjani-supporting Shaykh 'Abbas Musawi, Hizballah did not mind seeing 'Ubayd rot in an Israeli prison because he was not one of them anyway. Now they are even saying so outright.

No less alarming is President Bush's attitude to the hostage exchange affair. It will be recalled that he was a staunch supporter of a comprehensive exchange deal that would include the Palestinian prisoners. Prior to the internal upheaval in Hizballah, such a deal stood a reasonable chance; Shaykh Tufayli even authorized his buddy Ahmad Jibril to offer Israel, via the Red Cross, a deal in the style at which Jibril had become adept. Contrary to President Bush's view, Israel was not ready to include Palestinians, and eventually Western countries decided to detach their deals with Hizballah from the Israeli pest. How sad it was to find out that after Hizballah had dissociated itself from the Palestinians, Israel was left without resources—the same resources it had previously misused. While it should be hoped that the UN secretary general will be able to rectify the situation in the end, President Bush has already sent out dangerous signals. Twice on the same day he failed to mention Israel as a party to deals. The signal should not be regarded as a warning limited to the hostage exchange. The presidential standing endows matters with a general significance. If you do not integrate into the Middle East's new order to be founded on the resolution of the Palestinian problem, we will build it

without you. If you do not find a way to settle your differences with your neighbors, you will find yourselves outside.

Other signals have come from the Saudi side. Last weekend, Saudi Arabia announced a delay in issuing entry visas to Israeli Arabs planning to make the hajj to Mecca. In parallel, there have been reports that King Fahd has instructed Prince Bandar to discontinue his meetings with U.S. Jews. It should be noted that the change in Saudi policy was the result of an American appeal, which is in line with the new U.S. approach to Israel beginning with the Air Force commander's statement, through Israel's removal from hostage exchange deals, and down to a cooling (not terminating!) of the normalization process between Israel and the Arab world.

Approving the settlement in Silwan was not only a strategic signal from Shamir. It was also meant to achieve several short-term tactical goals. To comprehend them, one must go back to Faysal al-Husayni's comments, because Shamir's arrows were directed primarily at him. He charged Israel with putting forward the Jerusalem program to torpedo the political process at his news conference last week. He also argued that if Israel persists in its policy of imposing the law of the jungle in lieu of international legitimacy, he will be forced to cease his efforts to persuade the Palestinians to rechannel their struggle to peaceful political paths.

To understand his meaning, it is necessary to know the details of his talks with Baker on the eve of the Madrid conference. As will be recalled, al-Husayni applied pressure to become a formal member of the delegation. Shamir ruled him out on the grounds that he represents Jerusalem. In reaction, al-Husayni exerted pressure for the Jerusalem issue to be raised at the initial stages of the negotiations. Baker refused, and informed al-Husayni that the Jerusalem issue will be discussed separately by President Bush so that a solution commensurate with the heavy symbolic stature of the city as the city of peace can be found. Al-Husayni gave a glimpse of this U.S. position in his interview with 'AL HAMISHMAR a little over a week ago. This can give us an idea of the scope of damage Shamir wanted to wreak on Bush's efforts. Because we now understand that Shamir is not interested in seeing in Jerusalem the kind of pax Americana described to al-Husayni (who ultimately accepted it), we can fully appreciate the degree of danger Shamir attributes to al-Husayni's activities, seeing that he represents the Jerusalem problem.

As al-Husayni himself admitted, he is currently making great efforts to redirect the Palestinians' struggle into political activity. He is subjected to bitter attacks by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and has been criticized by Nayif Hawatimah. Shamir joined in the internal Palestinian arguments to prove that al-Husayni is wrong and that his opponents are right. Indeed, Shamir has already scored a measure of success, as it is always easier to break than to make. In an interview with AL-FAJR on Friday, al-Husayni no longer talked about his "instructions" to the delegation in Washington but about "suggestions." Al-Husayni is now trying to retreat after having seen Shamir expose his cards. There are other reasons for this as well having to do with the complex fabric of inter-Palestinian relations, but the main reason is his difficulties with respect to Silwan.

As will be recalled, one of the main arguments that the Palestinians must hurry to join the political process was that it is necessary to salvage Palestinian land before Israel wolfs it down. It now seems that the opposite is true. This situation is hard for al-Husayni to contend with. But he is not the only one.

Officials Comment on Settlers' Actions in Ramallah

Sharon—No Right To Take Law Into Own Hands

TA1612170291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Report by 'Ezra Yanuv]

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon, suffering from a slight cold, attended the opening of the Orlev factory this morning in Sederot. This factory produces prefabricated bathroom units with the aid of new technology. Reacting to the actions by settlers in Judaea and Samaria this week, Minister Sharon had this to say:

[Begin Sharon recording] I do not think that anyone should take the law into his own hands. The security forces are in charge of security. These bodies are the ones responsible for restoring calm and security. This situation, in which the lives of Jews are fair game for all, has to end. [end recording]

Commenting on the Washington talks, Sharon assumed a critical tone when speaking of the fundamental issues that should be on the agenda.

[Begin Sharon recording] Jordan is the bona fide Palestinian state, and there will not be a second such entity. If we had adopted this position, we would not have found ourselves in our present quandary. The fact of the matter, however, is that we are in the midst of negotiations—at this stage—and even now I would still demand that the emphasis be removed from procedural matters and placed on substantive issues such as a halt to the arms race, the elimination of the terror organizations, the beginning of a democratization process, the rehabilitation of refugees, and a clear and unequivocal declaration that there already is one Palestinian state in Jordan and that there will not be a second one west of the Jordan River. [end recording]

After explaining that he had not attended the Ministerial Committee on Aliyah's session yesterday because of the flu, Sharon asserted that there is no justification for the committee's existence and that it has no authority.

Sharon also noted that as of today, 390,000 immigrants have arrived from the Soviet Union.

Settlers Warned Against Breaking Law

TA1612185691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Following a spate of violent acts and an inflammatory statement by settlers in Judaea and Samaria, the head of Central Command, Major General Dani Yatom, has been holding meetings with settlers' leaders to tell them that law and order should be maintained in the territories by the Army and Jewish settlers should not be swept up into committing illegal acts. [passage omitted]

Potential for Settler-IDF 'Confrontation' Noted

TA1712122991 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Dec 91 p 2

[Pool Report]

[Excerpts] The leaders of Qiryat Arba' are demanding that in the coming days Defense Minister Moshe Arens give them the "green light" to settle Har Manoah near Hebron. The settlers plan to take over the site in the coming days even if permission is not granted.

Tzvi Katzover, head of the Qiryat Arba' Council, confirmed yesterday that the settlers plan to settle Har Manoah in the near future. "We hope that permission will be given, but in any case we intend to settle the site," Katzover said.

A senior police officer said yesterday that "a Jewish intifadah" in the territories can definitely break out. It is not logical that such an intifadah would start within the Green Line, the officer said. Five officers with the rank of commander yesterday rejected the possibility of the establishment of a new Jewish underground.

"The settlers learned a hard lesson from the earlier affair. Today they do not feel threatened as they did in the past, first and foremost because it seems to them that the government belongs to them, that it supports them. The settlers feel they have backing in the field," one of the officers said.

"The defense establishment has also learned a hard lesson from the past. The Shin Bet now 'tails' all the extreme idealists of the extreme right wing and watches all possible activities. It does not seem to me that these elements would permit another underground the chance to develop," an officer with commander's rank said. "What we fear today are outbreaks of madness by individuals. It is very difficult to deal with such phenomena." [passage omitted]

A senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer told military correspondents yesterday that violations of the law by the settlers in the territories are causing "the IDF to divert from its planned activity in Judaea and Samaria." He said "any settler activity that gets out of control completely and forces the IDF to deploy special forces to deal with them might lead to physical confrontations with them, which could have a terrible outcome."

He added that in the field there is definitely a potential for deterioration, though he believes the civilian and religious leadership of the Jews in the territories has no intention of harming the IDF. The officer expressed the hope that the leaders would not urge violation of the law and would not let matters get out of control.

Court Ruling on Status of Settlements Explained

State Attorney—'Not Irreversible'

TA1612183191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] The NRP [National Religious Party] will demand a meeting with the prime minister to discuss the reply of the Attorney's Office to the appeal by Peace Now to the High Court of Justice on the settlements. Knesset Member [MK] Yitzhaq Levi, NRP faction chairman, told our correspondent Yo'el Nir that he is shocked by the reply of the State Attorney's Office and specially by the statement that settlement activity is not irreversible. He claims that our title to parts of Eretz Yisra'el is independent of security considerations. The NRP faction will discuss the reply of the State Attorney's Office on Thursday.

MK Levi says that the response to the High Court of Justice will not make it possible for those faithful to Eretz Yisra'el to remain partners in the coalition.

In reply to the Peace Now appeal on the settlements, the State Attorney's Office says that the state will demand sovereignty over the territories, but that it is necessary to draw a distinction between arguments on the international political level and the legal situation currently prevailing in the area.

MK Sarid presented to the Knesset today the state's response to the Peace Now appeal. The state's response, based on Supreme Court rulings, implies that the status of the settlements is only temporary. One ruling says that settlement activity in the territories is not irreversible; another says that the terms of the peace agreement will ultimately determine the fate of each and every settlement.

Minister Olmert Comments

TA1712093991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Interview with Health Minister Ehud Olmert by Gabi Zohar and Ya'el Dan in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Zohar] The affidavit submitted by the State Attorney's office to the High Court of Justice notes that the use the settlements make of the land does not entail a permanent change in the status of that land. In other words, the settlements are temporary.

[Olmert] I think that legal language is important in legal discussions. We are not in court now, so we can talk plain human language.

I saw some dramatic headlines in the papers this morning, saying: Knesset Member Yosi Sarid discloses the state's reply to the High Court of Justice. I take this to mean that the state's reply had been some kind of top secret, which has now been revealed by Yosi Sarid. I have not read the reply, and I only know about it from Sarid's disclosures. I must, therefore, be very cautious in what I say.

It seems to me that common sense would have it that the state, in its reply to the High Court of Justice, is describing the current legal situation. The legal situation is that Israel has not formally annexed the areas of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza or applied its jurisprudence to them, as we could have done had we wanted, and as we did with Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.

This being the case, according to international law, as far as its status in the territories is concerned, Israel is a custodian administering the territories until a decision is made in negotiations about their permanent status. That is the formal situation, and I believe that the affidavit to the High Court of Justice simply explains that in legal language.

What does the state's reply mean? People may read whatever they want into it. If attorney Avigdor Feldman and Yosi Sarid want to read into it that the settlements are temporary and that at the end of the negotiations there will be no settlements, let them.

[Dan] How do you interpret it?

[Olmert] Common sense tells me that this will be decided in negotiations. Seeing that the government's position is that we will not cede those territories and settlements, logic tells me that we will not give them up.

[Zohar] Well, it sounds clearer in human language.

[Olmert] That is correct. I think all this uproar is unnecessary. I strongly suggest that no political body turn a legal issue such as the affidavit submitted by the State Attorney's Office—which I am sure was issued after careful thought and with utmost responsibility, as was required—into a political issue.

Police Affairs Minister Decides on Abuse Case

Decision To Appoint Committee Overruled

TA1612203591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo has rejected Commissioner Ya'aqov Terner's decision to appoint a police team to submit recommendations on what to do with the policemen charged with mistreating Arab detainees. The accusations refer to 10 policemen from the Jerusalem police Minorities Department, against whom indictments were submitted yesterday on offenses they committed two and a half years ago. The policemen have denied the accusations, and have meanwhile been reassigned to other units. Our police affairs correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports:

It is not the first time Police Affairs Roni Milo has overruled a commissioner's decision one day after it was made. Yesterday, following the indictments against 10 policemen from the Jerusalem Minorities Department, in which the officers were charged with abusing Arab detainees, Commissioner Ya'aqov Terner decided to appoint a senior investigatory team to submit recommendations on the policemen. This evening, as we said, Minister Milo overruled Terner's decision, claiming that no measures will be taken against the policemen until after the court decides their case.

Milo told his associates today that he is annoyed with the commissioner for not having found it necessary to update him before making the decision on the investigatory committee. Minister Milo said this evening that the charges against the policemen may be well-founded, but the men have already in fact been sentenced without trial.

It should be pointed out that after the Temple Mount incident [on 8 October 1990, in which 18 Arabs were killed], too, Minister Milo overruled the commissioner's decision to appoint a police commission of inquiry, recommending instead that an outside commission of inquiry be set up.

Personnel at the Police Affairs Ministry this evening confirmed that a police commission of inquiry can be set up even after charges have been filed, but added that there is no obligation to do so.

Milo Seen 'Distancing Himself'

TA1712070791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Police Minister Roni Milo appears to be distancing himself from the scandal in the Jerusalem police department. He said he would not approve any recommendation to appoint an investigative committee concerning charges that 10 police officers abused Arab detainees in Jerusalem. But Milo said he would not oppose an investigative team appointed by national police commander, Ya'aqov Terner, and would not interfere in his work.

Over 500 Detained in Jerusalem, West Bank

TA1612180791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] A senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer reported this evening that in the past two months the Shin Bet, the IDF, and the police have uncovered approximately 100 terrorist gangs in the Jerusalem, Judaea, and Samaria areas.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the officer said that more than 500 suspected

members of Fatah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and the Islamic Jihad have been detained. In the course of the investigations, nearly 200 attacks have been solved and numerous weapons seized. The senior officer also emphasized that Fatah continues to carry out attacks in Judaea and Samaria.

Bodies of Two 'Terrorists' Found Off Gaza Coast

TA1712070091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Excerpt] The security forces yesterday found the bodies of two terrorists floating in the sea, off the southern Gaza Strip. They turned out to be armed terrorists who had planned to carry out attacks in Israel. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports:

The identity of the terrorists and their affiliation has not yet been released. It seems that the two were trying to infiltrate Egyptian territory from the sea, through Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, and to proceed from there to the boundaries of the Green Line to stage attacks. They were found in possession of two guns, 100 bullets, 19 hand grenades, and several bricks of explosives. Written operating instructions were found on their bodies. The security forces picked up the bodies yesterday morning. The two apparently drowned two or three days ago, when they tried to infiltrate the Gaza Strip in stormy weather.

Several wanted men, suspected of having murdered local Arabs whom they believed were collaborating with the authorities and of trying to attack soldiers and civilians, have been apprehended by the security forces in the Gaza Strip in the past few days. One of them was caught by a Border Police unit in the town of Bani Suhaylah. [passage omitted]

Air Force Attacks 'Terrorist Target' in Lebanon

TA1712131791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Air Force planes at noon attacked a terrorist target near al-Sultan Ya'qub in the Lebanese al-Biqa' region. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman announced that the target was hit, and all planes returned to base safely. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe adds that the attacked terrorist target belongs to the Ahmad Jibril organization and served as a base of departure for terrorist activity.

Minister Arens Approves 2 New IDF Appointments

TA1712125691 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Dec 91 p 12

[Report by military correspondent Dani Sade]

[Text] The defense minister yesterday approved the chief of staff's recommendations for two senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] appointments.

Colonel Barukh Spiegel was appointed commander of the units for liaison with foreign forces, replacing Brigadier General Hayim Yifrah. Colonel Mikha'el Shaqed will be appointed chief quartermaster, replacing Brig. Gen. Yisra'el Hayut, who is leaving the Army.

The appointments go into effect in the coming months. Both men will be promoted to brigadier general.

Prime Minister Replies to House Members' Remarks

JN1612182691 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1609 GMT 16 Dec 91

["Full recording" of Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir's "reply to the remarks of members of the House of Representatives on the government's policy statement" delivered to the House of Representatives in Amman on 16 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. May God's peace and blessings be upon our lord Muhammad, the proud Arab prophet. Mr. Speaker, respected deputies, the position I am in today is a source of special happiness for me. God has wished that I participate in yet another part of the construction of democracy in Jordan. My previous government, at the directive of his majesty, may God preserve him, supervised the legislative elections which you unanimously have affirmed in your speeches on many occasions were free and fair elections. I once again submit to his majesty's orders to participate in enhancing, perpetuating, and developing the democratic process.

Democracy has been the option of the leader and the people. We have accepted this option and are eager to safeguard it. It is capable of releasing the potential of the people and of having them responsibly and effectively participate in decisionmaking that will enhance the edifice, organize the march, and seal the breaches through which opponents penetrate. We all are entrusted with this option and are concerned about it. Our course to attain this objective is through constant sacrifices, the assumption of responsibility, the realization of facts, and a rising above all that is secondary or peripheral.

Constitutional democracy does not have two poles, two adversaries, or two parties which confront each other. Constitutional democracy consists of one party—the entire people. The responsibility is distributed among the three constitutional branches, and one does not dominate the other or assume the responsibilities of the other. Thus, the three branches will develop through complementarity and not through rivalry, through cooperation and not through fighting. The causes of the homeland and the interests of the citizens are so huge and serious that they need all good efforts.

Because the distribution of responsibilities is stipulated in the Constitution, my government will remain committed to this. It announces that it will respect all of the provisions of the Constitution in letter and spirit.

Brother deputies, we must not forget that the steps we have taken on the road to democracy—although they are important, as his majesty has repeatedly affirmed—are but the beginning of a long march. The completion of other democratic institutions such as political pluralism, freedom of the press, and the formation of professional societies and trade unions are of no less importance than parliamentary life because they complement and bolster it. We are determined to fully cooperate with your esteemed House to complete the legislation that is necessary for the democratic march and to terminate the martial law provisions that are still in force.

Respected deputies, from the establishment of the state up to the present, the Palestinian cause has been our major concern and the pivot of our life. Our policies and stands have stemmed from the Palestinian cause. We have contributed to war efforts and to the search for peace with all the means at our disposal. We have supported the people of Palestine with all the moral and material potential that we possess. We have always responded to the will of the Palestinian people. We have stood by their side in all circumstances, and we will continue to support them. We will not abandon them; we will champion them and support them. This is dictated by Islam, by our Arab affiliation, by our nationalism, and by our interests. We will continue to do so until we die.

We were the first to criticize the double standard approach in applying international legitimacy and to oppose selectiveness in the behavior of the big powers. We also succeeded in shedding light on the Palestinian people's suffering, on attempts to thwart their rights, and on ignoring their human right to life. When our Palestinian brothers in particular, and the Syrian, Lebanese, and Arab brothers in general, demonstrated their conviction that it is good to seek peace within the current efforts being made, we participated in these efforts in accordance with our national and pan-Arab principles and on the following bases:

1. Protecting Jordan's interests, entity, and identity—land, people, wealth, and resources.

2. Providing an umbrella for the Palestinian brothers to enable them to achieve their legitimate national rights.

3. Securing Israel's withdrawal from all the Palestinian territories, the foremost of which is Jerusalem, as well as from the occupied Arab territories in the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon, in accordance with Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

4. Supporting the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to self-determination on the soil of Palestine under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

5. Halting the Israeli settlement process in the occupied Arab territories.

6. Solving the problem of Palestinian refugees in a fair way in accordance with UN resolutions.

Respected deputies, a new world order has begun to take shape and a new system is being planned for this part of the world. Regrettably, no lessons have been learned from the disasters that have befallen our Arab system. Instead of exploring the events and loopholes which led to the escalation of the Gulf crisis and its repercussions, and instead of building a system that will not allow new mistakes, inter-Arab relations are now based on dividing the one nation into victor and defeated, into punisher

and punished, and into accuser and accused. What will the future be if this situation continues, and how can we see a new Arab system in light of such behavior?

Respected deputies, we extended our hand to our brothers without weakness because with our principles, our leadership, our system, and our free and self-confident people we are strong. Some of them might have misunderstood or made a hasty judgment. Jordan will remain lofty and proud and will not bow to any material, war, or economic pressure, regardless of their impact on our people. Hunger with honor rather than being overfed with humiliation. [applause] Our hearts, however, will remain open to all Arabs everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, brother deputies, the economic issue, which you rightfully underscored, will be my government's main preoccupation. I will not be underestimating the issue or its impact if I sum up the problems from which the people are suffering as follows: poverty, unemployment, high prices, and debts. An economy with only one of these problems is a limited economy, let alone all of them together.

The government statement pointed out that my government has embarked on a seven-year plan to address these issues and to firmly contain their consequences. The government will not be satisfied with decisions or measures that have limited or temporary effects. The statement contained national objectives for a long-term plan. I hope that you will be able to discuss the plan's components and contents when you debate the state's general budget, especially as pertains to certain sectors such as agriculture, industry, water, education, health, youth, justice, services, the environment, and the performance of government bodies.

I therefore refer to the immediate objectives of this government: rectifying and reviving the economy to achieve real growth in the gross national product during the next year, creating more job opportunities, and improving the standard of living for citizens in general and for those of low and limited incomes in particular. To achieve this, the government will strengthen self-reliance, address internal and external disturbances in our national economy, adopt financial and monetary policies that will stabilize and bolster confidence in the national currency, and attract capital and encourage more investment in the production sectors. The government will also use available and unused energies, including expanding the better utilization of natural resources, and will serve all regions of the Kingdom, especially those which have received little share of development gains. We will invest in the largest possible regions so that a balance can be ensured between the distribution of the population and the revenues of the various regions, and thus decrease internal immigration. The subjects of poverty and unemployment in particular will be our chief concern. This is because they are related to the humanity and dignity of man and because they involve one of man's primary rights, one that is virtually equal to his right to life itself.

This is our outlook on poverty and unemployment. You know that the treatment of these issues will necessarily be slow, but it should be effective. We believe that the solution is to increase the production base, to encourage and promote new investments, to utilize natural resources, to upgrade the competence of existing industries, and to encourage small and medium industries, especially those that provide more employment opportunities. The solutions also lie in directing production toward exports and in providing various incentives. These are far-reaching solutions that take time. But they will be accompanied by other speedy solutions which the government will present immediately with a view to easing the people's burdens and problems.

My government will firmly fight monopolies and will work to stabilize prices and secure bread for citizens. It will also continue to address the debt problem within the framework of our difficult economic conditions.

We believe that modernizing and developing the performance of public institutions are as necessary as development and prosperity themselves. We also believe that planning for economic and social reform will be useless if the administrative body, which is responsible for the implementation, is reactionary, worn out, or lacking in incentives. We therefore think that this problem should be placed on the top of the list of our concerns.

On this occasion I address each member of the administrative system—senior members and those more junior alike—to realize the nature of the current stage, the seriousness of this approach, and our determination to proceed with the process of administrative reform to its full extent within a timetable that has fixed targets and clear features.

Mr. Speaker, respected deputies, we consider education to be the process of making a human being, of discovering his skills, genius, and creativity. It is also the process of addressing and tackling his problems. From this it derives grave significance. In our opinion, education, the media, and religious and cultural guidance are integrated processes. They cannot and must not contradict each other. They all aim at fulfilling the mission of building a faithful human being, one who is useful to himself and to his society, one who has sound logic and behavior, one who is committed to the good of his homeland and nation, one who understands his rights, and one who is committed to his duties while appreciating the rights of the citizen.

Our belief in Islam—religion, civilization, and culture—is entrenched by a long history of sacrifice and devotion. It is embodied in the derivation of our legislation from the merciful Islamic law which God sent as mercy for all creatures.

Mr. Speaker, brother deputies, I was pleased by what I heard in terms of the pride of our brothers in our Jordanian Arab Army and our security organs—the object of our pride and hope—which protect us in days of difficulty and danger. We will support them and

provide them with all that we can, as you wish, in terms of capabilities and care in accordance with the directives of their supreme commander, establisher, and sponsor, His Majesty King Husayn. [applause]

Mr. Speaker, respected deputies, I thank God Almighty for His gift of security, faith, freedom, and democracy for which our leader has opted, and for which we have opted. I pray to God to guide us to the right path so that we can proceed through the dangers surrounding us with shrewd wisdom, farsightedness, and a bright, clear vision to build the model country, the impenetrable country, and the dignified citizen. Hence, we will be an example for our nation and a model to be emulated.

I, along with the members of my cabinet, have listened to your speeches and opinions with respect. I had hoped, if the Constitution permitted me, to present an independent policy statement. I emphasize to you that we will exert our efforts to attain the aspirations of the people for their good and for their happiness.

My government is very determined to make the march successful. Our hands are extended for cooperation with you.

May God preserve the homeland and His Majesty King Husayn.

I only desire betterment to the best of my power, and my success can only come from Allah. In Him I trust, and unto Him I turn.

May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Bin-Shakir Wins Vote of Confidence

JN1612160191 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Excerpt] In a vote of confidence this evening, His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir's government won the House of Representatives' confidence.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, speaker of the House of Representatives, declared that 46 deputies had voted their confidence in the government while 27 had submitted no-confidence votes. Three deputies abstained and four did not attend the session.

After the vote, His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir delivered a speech in which he thanked the deputies. He also emphasized his government's determination to cooperate with the House of Representatives and to earnestly and seriously work for and to make efforts in the service of the homeland and its citizens. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Pardons 2,864 Security Prisoners

JN1712153191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] In a statement to a SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY correspondent, the interior minister has said the following:

Leader President Hafiz al-Asad has pardoned 2,864 persons who have carried out antistate security acts. They will be released immediately.

Repeal of UN Zionism Resolution Criticized

JN1712061691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] A responsible Foreign Ministry spokesman has stated the following: Repealing the UN General Assembly resolution that considers Zionism a form of racism does not change the fact that there are discriminatory laws, legislation, and measures still in force in Israel.

The spokesman added: The Syrian delegation voted against repealing the resolution because it is well aware that racist anti-Arab practices in the occupied territories have been doubled and stepped up over the past few years when compared to the situation in 1975.

Concluding his statement, the Syrian spokesman said: Had the repeal of the resolution reflected a change in the state of affairs in the occupied territories, not only would the Israelis have been relieved, but also the Arabs.

The UN General Assembly last night repealed a resolution it passed in 1975 equating Zionism with racism. AP said that 111 countries voted in favor of repealing the resolution, while 25 countries voted against this, with 13 countries abstaining. The number of votes in the UN General Assembly is 166.

UN Delegate Requests Delay in Vote on Golan

JN1712080391 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] New York—During the UN General Assembly [UNGA] discussion of the situation in the occupied Syrian Golan as part of its debate on the Middle East situation yesterday evening, and which was listed on its agenda, the Syrian Arab representative to the United Nations demanded that the submittal of the draft resolution on the occupied Syrian Golan for voting be postponed for the time being. He added that Syria reserves the right to have the situation in the occupied Syrian Golan debated during the current 46th UNGA session pending the outcome of the peace process.

In his statement, the Syrian delegate went on to say: The Syrian delegation views Resolution 4.647 of 9 December 1991 on the Golan passed by the UNGA last week as one that meets Syria's demands at present with regard to the supportive and clear stands of member states vis-a-vis the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan, especially as this resolution views the laws, legislation, and measures that Israel has imposed on the Golan since 1967 as null and void.

The Syrian delegate to the United Nations expressed his thanks and appreciation to the 152 countries which voted in favor of the Golan resolution.

In its resolution, the UNGA urges Israel to withdraw immediately, completely, and unconditionally from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967. Similarly, it condemns the Israeli decision to impose its laws on the occupied Syrian Arab Golan Heights.

In a resolution passed yesterday by a majority of 93 votes, with 27 countries voting against it and 37 others abstaining, the UNGA affirmed that peace in the Middle East is an indivisible whole. In its resolution, the UNGA emphasizes the need to reach a comprehensive, just, and durable solution to the Middle East conflict under UN auspices and on the basis of relevant UN resolutions, to ensure a complete and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, as well as other occupied Arab lands. Moreover, the resolution calls for enabling the Palestinian people under the PLO to exercise their inalienable rights, including their right to self-determination, national independence, and the establishment of an independent and sovereign state.

Furthermore, the UNGA declared its opposition to all agreements and arrangements that violate the Palestinian people's inalienable rights and which run counter to the principles of a just and comprehensive solution. The UNGA also denounced Israel for its failure to comply with Security Council and UNGA resolutions which view Israel's annexation of Jerusalem as null and void. In its resolution, the UNGA condemns Israeli practices against the Palestinian people, including land expropriation and the building of settlements. Similarly, the UNGA denounced the constant cooperation between Israel and South Africa, particularly in the economic, military, and nuclear sectors.

Press Calls for 'Stronger Pressure' on Israel

JN1712091991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH editorially comments on the Washington peace talks, noting that Israeli defiance of these talks is being stepped up. The paper adds: This defiance is manifesting itself in obstructing the talks with a view to scuttling, torpedoing, and thwarting the peace process. Furthermore, Israel has persisted in its expansionist Zionist policy by building settlements and bringing in Jewish immigrants.

Under the headline "Will the Arabs Exploit the Washington Talks Positively," AL-BA'TH says: There is no

doubt that the Madrid conference and the ensuing Washington negotiations have tangibly shown Israel's disregard for the peace process, the world community, and UN resolutions. However, as evinced by previous events, this will remain mere rhetoric unless it is corroborated by an honoring of international legitimacy. It is worth noting that such a thing has not happened thus far. If some semblance of international legitimacy had been honored, Israel would not have dared to persist in its settlement policy, in the expulsion of Arab residents from their homes, and in issuing decisions allowing Jewish settlers to seize the Arab lands they seek to control at a time when peace negotiations are under way in Washington.

AL-BA'TH adds: It must be emphasized that the start of the peace process is beneficial to all, and also of high importance. What is more important, however, is to see the powers which profess to be concerned with the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region make moves and espouse the proper positions against the party which is brazenly harming the peace process. Because Israel, as U.S. officials admit, is the only party which strives to obstruct the peace process, to scuttle it, and to torpedo it if possible, the following question arises: Why have no measures thus far been adopted against this Israeli conduct? Do these very world powers think that this Israeli conduct indicates respect for the peace process or is it meant to harm it?

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: The Washington talks will reveal many things. We believe that the final outcome will be in favor of the prime Arab cause, if they manage to exploit things in time.

Similarly, the newspaper TISHRIN editorially comments on the ongoing Washington talks with the Israeli side on the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the attainment of a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. TISHRIN notes that there are no peaceful intentions on the part of Israel, and that its rulers cling to a policy aimed at perpetuating the occupation, building more settlements, and expansion.

Under the headline "Restoring Rights in Full," the newspaper TISHRIN says: The Arabs, including Syria, have responded favorably to the U.S. proposals and the U.S-Soviet-European effort after they felt a serious effort by the world community to implement Security Council resolutions and realize a just and comprehensive settlement on all fronts, a settlement which would end the Israeli occupation and eliminate the suppression and repression plaguing the Palestinian people.

TISHRIN adds: The achievement of a just and comprehensive peace has always been and still is Syria's basic objective. Peace, as we understand it, means ending the occupation, injustice, and repression, and giving rights to their rightful owners. Syria has repeatedly made it clear, through leader al-Asad, that there can be no peace unless all occupied territories are restored, unless the Palestinian people's ordeal is ended, and also unless they are allowed to exercise their right to self-determination. Likewise, Syria has made it clear that the occupied territories are not exclusively confined to the Golan but rather include Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and southern Lebanon. There can be no bargaining over any of these territories. In the same vein, there can be no forfeiture of rights to any of these territories.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: The entire world has come to realize that the Arabs are peace advocates, that it is only Israel which is obstructing the peace process, and that there is no alternative to applying stronger pressure on Israel, especially because international resolutions must be implemented without delay.

Afghanistan

Government Issues Statement on Soviet Commonwealth

LD1612171391 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Afghan Government statement—read by announcer]

[Text] The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan follows with interest the recent rapid developments in the situation of the Soviet Union and the emerging Commonwealth of Independent States. The Afghan Government, in consideration of its historical relations and neighborliness with the Soviet people and based on the influences that the [Soviet] situation has on the process of regional and international peace and stability, hopes that the current processes will follow a path in line with the wishes and demands of the peoples, parliaments, and leaders of this land and that it will be able to guarantee for them rights and freedoms and a society free from ethnic and national clashes.

The Afghan Government, firmly believing in the principles and looking at the history of [word indistinct] relations between our people, welcomes the emergency of a new commonwealth community, the base of which has been laid by the draft agreement between the Russian Federation, Ukraine, and the Belarussian Republic, and has been [words indistinct] by the Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan, with whom we share many common historical, religious, and cultural-economic features. As to what shape this community will take in the future and [words indistinct] we desire continuing and expanding mutually beneficial relations.

The Government of Afghanistan, respecting the decision of those states regarding the formation of a commonwealth of independent states, assures them that we will not spare any common efforts and cooperation toward safeguarding mutually beneficial relations.

Najibollah Calls War Council Due to Arms Cuts

BK1712101791 Hong Kong AFP in English 1001 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Kabul, Dec 17 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibollah ordered his generals to a meeting Tuesday in what was seen here as one of his last war councils before superpower disengagement from the Afghan conflict.

Commanders from Najibollah's powerful Interior Ministry and the secret police were attending the meeting which began early Tuesday morning, sources said.

Most of those attending the meeting were close aides of the Afghan leader, the sources said, adding that the conference was taking stock of the political and military situation in Afghanistan.

"We have not been informed about the meeting," said a Foreign Ministry spokesman, as soldiers with rocket launchers and guns ringed the ministry complex where Najibollah was presiding over the war council.

Several members of his Watan (Homeland) Party, which seized power in a communist coup in 1978, were also attending the closed-door conference, soldiers guarding the venue said, but there was no official confirmation.

The conference comes ahead of a January 1 official deadline set by Washington and Moscow to cut all military supplies to the warring sides in the 13-year-old Afghan conflict. Moscow halted the shipments to Kabul Sunday in a gesture of goodwill to Afghan resistance rebels with whom it is discussing the release of Soviet prisoners of war.

Reports from Pakistan, where a majority of the rebels are based, said that Washington too has stopped arming its proteges from October 15.

The rebels went to war against the Soviet-backed Kabul government in 1979 when Moscow sent in troops here, and the conflict has left more than one million Afghans dead and driven out some six million refugees. Diplomats expect a serious rebel attack in the spring of 1992 when the weather warms, although Najibollah's regime is thought to be holding enough weapons to fight for another two years.

The regime is already facing low-level conflict in the regions of Paktia and Zabol, and diplomats say the Afghan Government cannot afford to suffer even a minor military defeat, which could bring immense political pressure on it.

Najibollah Meets Soviet Journalists, Commentators

LD1512172391 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Excerpts] The presidential press office reports that President of Afghanistan Esteemed Najibollah this morning received at the headquarters of the Presidential Palace journalists and commentators from the economic sectors of the Soviet Union.

At the beginning of the meeting, the esteemed president of Afghanistan spoke about the country's military-political situation and about the measures and proposals of the Republic of Afghanistan in connection with the process of a political solution to the Afghan issue. [passage omitted]

The meeting was attended also Ashraf Shah, head of the Department of Affairs of the National Economy of the presidency; Farid Zarif, head of the Secretariat of the Economic Consultative Council; and Pastukhov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union to Kabul.

Bangladesh

Zia Addresses Nation on Eve of Victory Day

BK1512151891 [Editorial Report] Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali at 1315 GMT on 15 December carries a live or recorded 22-minute address to the nation by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on the eve of Victory Day. Reception is fair to poor.

The prime minister begins her speech by paying tribute to the martyrs of the freedom struggle whose sacrifice had led to the country's independence on 16 December 20 years ago. She then notes the significance of the month of December, pointing to the movement for the restoration of democracy from autocratic rule last year.

Continuing, the prime minister recalls the elections in February and her government's subsequent assumption of office. Expressing satisfaction over the government's success in dealing with the devastating cyclone and recurrent floods, Begum Zia says "we want to establish a permanent system to deal with natural calamities."

As for press freedom under the present government, she says "full freedom of the press has been ensured. All parties now enjoy the opportunity to express their views on radio and television."

Turning to the current parliamentary system of the country, the prime minister notes its democratic features and says that the present government seeks the "development of democracy and democratic institutions, efficient economic management, giving priority to the eradication of poverty, curbing the wasting of resources, eliminating corruption, improving the economic conditions of the people, and establishing the rule of law and social justice."

The prime minister then notes the increasing losses of the Bangladesh Jute Mill Corporation, the Bangladesh Textile Mill Corporation, and other government units since 1982 as a result of the policies of the past regime and the resulting economic decay. She then notes the government's various measures to deal with the economic situation and also its road, bridge, and other projects.

Referring to the government's industrial policy, she says that "our new industrial policy has been formulated keeping in view the objective of creating the infrastructure for a free market. From now on, the government's role will not be a controlling but rather a cooperative one." The prime minister also speaks about the welfare of laborers and steps taken by the government in the agricultural sector.

Continuing her speech, she refers to the upcoming union council elections and calls upon her countrymen to ensure peace during the elections of these local bodies next month.

On education, she enumerates the steps that the government is taking. Touching on the terrorism menace on campuses, she says that "It is not the responsibility of the government alone to keep campuses free from terrorism. All patriotic forces should come forward in this regard."

The prime minister also refers to her government's efforts on health, population welfare, and women's welfare and the streamlining of the judicial system. She also calls for efforts to check terrorism and smuggling.

On foreign policy, the prime minister says that "our cardinal principle in foreign relations is to strengthen our independence and sovereignty, to enhance cooperation with the international community in general and with the Islamic world in particular, in order to achieve peace, progress, and prosperity; and to strengthen bilateral, regional, and international cooperation for the socioeconomic and political interests of the country. We believe in a nonaligned policy. During the last few months we played a bold and active role at various international forums, including the United Nations, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Commonwealth. We will continue our efforts to further strengthen regional cooperation and friendship and to make the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation]—the dream of the martyr President Zia—more dynamic and meaningful. We firmly believe in and seek the development of good-neighborly relations."

The prime minister then notes the liberal foreign aid flow into Bangladesh due to restoration of democracy in the country.

Begum Khaleda Zia concludes her speech at 1337 GMT by emphasizing the need to institutionalize democracy in the country and by calling on citizens to work for the nation's economic prosperity.

India

Further on Visit by PRC Delegation

BK1612165091 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1521 GMT 16 Dec 91

["Spokesman's Statement on Talks Between Indian and Chinese Foreign Ministers on 14 Dec, 91"]

[Text] Talks between two foreign ministers lasted almost two hours, and were conducted in an extremely friendly and warm atmosphere. Two foreign ministers had met earlier, in September 1991, at UN General Assembly, in New York. They both expressed their pleasure at being able to renew their dialogue and expressed happiness at fruitful exchange that they had had, when they last met. Because of this old contact, and friendly atmosphere, discussions were quite candid. A wide ranging review of international situation was undertaken by two foreign ministers, including situation in Soviet Union, Cambodia and Afghanistan.

Bilaterally, they both welcomed another opportunity to exchange views and expressed belief that this dialogue would add further substantive content to their relations.

Indian external affairs minister underlined fact that there was a general consensus in India on question of developing and strengthening our relationship with China. Responding to these remarks, Chinese foreign minister said that two rounds of talks between prime ministers, had facilitated task of two foreign ministers. Chinese foreign minister said that establishment of constructive relations between India and China would contribute to stability of world, and was in interest of people of two countries. He said that as a result of three agreements which had been signed on 13th December, 1991, both countries can expect an increasing number of exchanges and contacts in all fields of human endeavour. Two ministers also discussed possibility of giving an impetus to perceptible improvement that has been witnessed in field of our relationship in trade, science and technology and field of culture. Indian external affairs minister [EAM] also suggested that looking to future, we ought to stress importance of high level exchanges. He said it would be a good idea to have an exchange of visits by parliamentarians. In this context, he invited chairman of National People's Congress to visit India, and in return, speaker of lower house of parliament could visit China. Both ministers agreed that speaker and chairman would be requested to consider matter further.

Two foreign ministers also agreed that because of rapidly developing international situation, it will be useful to maintain a dialogue a level of foreign ministers. It was recalled that Chinese foreign minister had visited India in March 1991, and our external affairs minister went to China in January 1991. Present foreign ministers met each other in September this year in New York and they were meeting again now. It was agreed that such contacts should be maintained, and that such a dialogue would be in our mutual interest.

On cultural front, there were a couple of suggestions. One was made by us, and that was that we undertake joint translation of Buddhist scriptures, that are presently in China; and also joint studies for preservation of relics. Specifically, we also suggested that we should work on preservation and building of Xuan Zhuang memorial in Nalanda. Chinese foreign minister said that China fully shared India's desire to strengthen cultural contacts, which have been very active since ancient times. Work on Xuan Zhuang memorial in Nalanda would show that our bilateral relationship had been restored. He suggested that cultural departments of both sides, should get in touch with each other and should work on this proposal there was also a discussion on need to activate aviation authorities on both sides to establish direct air links between India and China. There was a review of various international organisations, such as NAM [Nonaligned Movement], G-15 [Group of 15], UN and others. There was a brief discussion in enhancing cooperation in field of education, and on scholarships.

Indian foreign minister made a detailed presentation on India's policies with our neighbours. He pointed to generally improved atmosphere in our relations with all our neighbours. He referred to recent visit of Nepalese prime minister, which had led to wide ranging agreements in several areas, including hydel [hydroelectric] projects, industrial development and cultural cooperation. Likewise, on Bangladesh, EAM gave an account of what had been achieved. As far as Pakistan was concerned, he said India had tried very hard, through mutual negotiations, to resolve its differences with Pakistan. He gave a detailed account of historic and legal background to Kashmir issue, including details like instrument of accession, act of independence, conflicts of 1947, 1965, 1971, etc. He said that, regrettably, 20 years of peace that had been ushered in, as a result of signing of Simla agreement in 1972, had been broken by Pakistan's change of attitude about three years ago, and its open and unending support to terrorists and subversives, trained and armed in camps in Pakistan, who were causing untold damage and disruption to lives of ordinary people. He referred to recent visit of special envoy of Pakistan prime minister and said that, regrettably, assurances given on that occasion, regarding possibility of a change of situation on ground, had not been fulfilled.

The Chinese foreign minister thanked the Indian external affairs minister for his lucid briefing on situation with regard to Kashmir and our relations with Pakistan. He expressed hope that India would continue its efforts to resolve its differences with Pakistan, through peaceful negotiations. He hoped that peaceful, friendly consultations with Pakistan would continue.

The Indian external affairs minister also articulated India's positon on Nonproliferation Treaty and nuclear weapons free zones [NWFZ's]. He underlined the fact that proliferation was a global issue and could not be tackled on a regional basis. He referred to detailed plans put forward by late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, at the third special session on disarmament in June 1988, and said that this action plan had charted a detailed course, which India invited world to appreciate and to try and adopt. Likewise on NWFZ's, the Indian external affairs minister said that these do not coincide with global reach of problem and, therefore, India was not fully convinced about their efficacy.

The external affairs minister also underlined inherent dangers in external inputs to Pakistan's nuclear weapons capacity and missile technology, specially in those areas which could affect our security and hasten an arms race in the region.

The Indian external affairs minister also conveyed our concern about situation in Myanmar [Burma]. He said that India stood for non-interference in internal affairs of other countries, but supported democracy. In this context, India hoped that there would be a peaceful transfer of power to elected representatives of people of Myanmar and that we would also see early release of Burmese leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

In response to a question on China's views on supply of missile technology, the spokesman clarified that the Chinese foreign minister said that it was not their intention to affect stability of any area of the world. In response to another question as to whether any complaint was made or protests

were lodged by India about behaviour of Pakistan, the spokesman clarified that we were not in business of complaining. Occasions like this are not used for such purposes, certainly not with countries like India and China. This dialogue was between the foreign ministers and the prime ministers of largest countries in the world. It was not an occasion for making complaints and lodging protests, but hearing from each other, explanations of policies and articulation of concerns. No one was out to get a particular "deal" out of a particular conversation as had been suggested by questioner. It was not a departmental store bargain, but a dialogue between foreign ministers and prime ministers of India and China in highest traditions of international diplomacy. Responding to another question as to whether organisations such as NAM, G-15, GATT, and UN were discussed, the spokesman clarified that both sides discussed working of these different organisations, and it was agreed that at official level, we would remain in touch with each other and work with each other's support.

In response to a question as to whether words like "international oligarchies" and "new world order", as were used by the spokesman in his previous briefings, and fact that such broad issues on international situation were discussed at prime ministerial level, while specifics were talked about at foreign minister's level, could be taken to imply that discussions had been structured in this manner deliberately, the spokesman clarified that it would be incorrect to reach such a conclusion. All issues were dealt with at all levels. There was no attempt to use a rhetorical phrase. Attempt was to articulate what was a genuinely felt concern, by all developing countries, about imbalanced world. It would be incorrect to say that the prime ministers only discussed matters of global and international importance while regional matters came up only at foreign ministers level.

Spokesman elaborated that there were varied emphases, shades and nuances at respective levels. Prime ministers have prime ministerial concerns and prime ministerial visions, and foreign ministers have their own horizons and compulsions. Obviously, there would be a difference in emphasis. As far as a division of subjects is concerned, there is no hard and fast rule for such discussions. There were no water tight compartments that prime minister would deal only with certain areas, and foreign ministers would deal with others. In any case, prime minister and foreign minister were both directly involved in making and formulating of foreign policy and in its conduct. They are perfectly at liberty to choose what subjects should be taken up at which level.

In response to a question on whether several Western press reports about so-called "ganging up of China and India against new world order", were justified, spokesman asserted that these were totally unjustified. He added that days of "so-called ganging up" were well behind us. Indian prime minister articulated this position very forcefully and very clearly at his address at Caracas, at G-15 summit meeting recently, where he said quite clearly that approach that India would adopt would be not a confrontational one but a cooperative one. Spokesman clarified that phrase used by both prime ministers of India and China was that they must establish *closer contact to carry forward* their "dialogue" with North. So, both countries were at one, in agreeing that what they wish to carry on was a "dialogue", a friendly, cooperative mutually beneficial dialogue with North, based on certain well-known and accepted principles, such as five principles, that is non-interference, respect of each other's sovereignties, etc.

Responding to another query about whether talks could be seen as an attempt by India to "wean" China away from Pakistan, spokesman clarified that inter-state relations could not be conducted with use of terminology of a kinder-garten or nursery. Certainly, countries of size of India and China conduct their relations with each other with a sense of respect and an understanding of their respective size and respective importance in world. Chinese had their own dimensions in their relationship with Pakistan. So did India. Neither side had any desire or intention of building this cooperative relationship with other, at expense of relationships that either had with third countries.

Spokesman on PRC Arms, Kashmir

BK1612155891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] China has assured India it has no intention to create instability or fuel the arms race in the region. Replying to questions by newsmen, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that the Chinese prime minister has categorically stated that his country is opposed to any type of terrorism.

Replying to a question as to why Kashmir has not figured in the joint communique issued at the end of Mr. Li Peng's visit to India, the spokesman said it was not included in the agenda for discussion as it is not a bilateral issue. He said China's views that bilateral issues should be solved through friendly consultations in fact support New Delhi's stand that Kashmir issue should be solved under the Simla agreement.

Officials Discuss Pakistan, Burma

BK1712093291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] India will reciprocate to Pakistani overtures for friendship only if there is improvement in the situation on the ground and not mere assurances by the Pakistani leaders. This was conveyed to the Chinese prime minister, Mr. Li Peng, by the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, during their talks in New Delhi.

The minister for external affairs, Mr. Madhav Singh Solanki, told the members of parliament attached to his ministry in New Delhi last evening that India's concern about the support to terrorists by Pakistan and supply of Chinese arms to Myanmar [Burma] landing into the hands of ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] terrorists in Assam was also conveyed to the Chinese leaders.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Returns From Senegal, Sudan

LD1612160991 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Excerpts] President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani returned to Tehran this evening after ending his trip to Senegal and Sudan. [passage omitted]

He was given an official welcome at Mehrabad airport by First Vice President Habibi, cabinet members, representatives of the esteemed leader, Majles deputies, judicial branch representatives, the prosecutor general, the Supreme Court head, vice presidents, civil and military figures, military and law enforcement commanders, and ambassadors and charge d'affairs of foreign countries represented in Tehran. [passage omitted]

Comments on Iraq Being Named Aggressor

LD1612202591 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Interview with President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani by unidentified correspondents in Tehran on 16 December—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Correspondent] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, at last, after a long wait and thanks to the efforts of our responsible authorities, Iraq has been identified as the aggressor. What do you think is the reason for announcing that Iraq was the aggressor?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] After years of our crying out as the aggrieved party when nobody bothered to listen, the facts are gradually showing themselves. Today the Islamic Republic is enjoying such stature in the world that it would be hard, to some extent, to deny the facts. There are very few countries whose media have not admitted for the past year that Iraq is the aggressor. During the Islamic Conference Organization summit, the amir of Kuwait delivered the opening speech. This is because his excellency was the previous head and was handing his post over to his successor. At the start of the speech his excellency clearly said that Iraq attacked Iran and occupied Iranian territory.

When an Arab leader, a neighbor of us and Iraq, speaks officially in his capacity as the head of the summit and announces so clearly that Iraq initiated the war, naturally the UN secretary general cannot offer a different opinion. For if he had offered a different opinion, he would have destroyed the credibility of the United Nations and the secretary general himself. I think there was nothing to be revealed. It was just necessary for the highest official of the world to state one word. He could not say anything else. Of course, we are grateful that he said what he did.

But think about it: What sort of judgment would the world media and the people of the world have made had he said something else? If you were to collect all the admissions that Iraq is the aggressor made during this period, it would make a thick volume of a book. How could the secretary general say something different? The Americans and the French have admitted this previously, too.

[Correspondent] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in view of this victory, how do you evaluate the implementation of the remaining articles of Resolution 598?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We have not had much time during our visit to discuss this issue. Perhaps my colleagues, who have been here, should answer this question. We must strive to implement all articles of the resolution. This is a burden of responsibility on our shoulders and those of the world community. We will see what happens next.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Paper Details 5 Nov Majles Open Session

PM1612183091 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 6 Nov 91 pp 5, 11

[Report on 5 November 1991 Majles open session by unidentified correspondent]

[Excerpts] Legal and Parliamentary Section—The open session of the Majles was held yesterday morning and chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

During this session deputies from Behbahan, Tarqabeh and Chenaran, Iranshahr, Marvdasht and Kazerun gave preagenda speeches. In accordance with item 77 of the Majles internal regulations, Sa'id Raja'i-Khorasani gave a reply to the comments made on Sunday by the deputy from Yazd.

These were followed by continued discussion on the agenda of the week.

Nurollah 'Abedi, Deputy From Behbahan

The first pre-agenda speaker was Nurollah 'Abedi, from the constituency of Behbahan. [passage omitted]

Mohammad 'Azimi, deputy from Tarqabeh and Chenaran: Israel replied to the Arab puppets by launching another attack on southern Lebanon and putting more pressure on the Palestinian uprising.

Mohammad 'Azimi, from the constituency of Tarqabeh and Chenaran, was the second pre-agenda speaker.

He started by giving a brief history of the occupation of Palestine and the role played by Britain in the creation and stability of the occupying regime of Jerusalem. He discussed the weakness of the Arab rulers in confronting the Israeli regime and said: Fear has overcome the belittled Arab rulers, and they have put any thoughts about Israel's destruction and the liberation of dear Jerusalem out of their minds. Instead of trying to remove

Israel from the face of history and liberating dear Jerusalem, all they think about is regaining the lands lost during the 1967 war.

He continued: This way of thinking means that the Arab rulers accept the existence of the occupying Israel, which is the beginning of compromise and the loss of the land of Palestine. The rulers and Arab shaykhs, by participating in the U.S. conference at Madrid, completed this chain of compromise and turned over the most bitter page in the history of Palestine. By appearing at that circus and accepting direct negotiations with Zionism, they stabilized the presence of this cancerous growth and brought eternal disgrace for themselves in the history books. They also brought a loss of face and disgrace for all Arab peoples.

The Americans and Israel have waited years for this golden opportunity. Drunk with victory, they deepened their criminal actions by attacking South Lebanon and putting pressure on the Palestinian uprising, as an immediate reply to the puppet Arab rulers.

He added: The uprising grew out of a love for God and found its way in the ideology of the pure islam of the prophet—peace be unto him. It learned struggle from our departed imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited. Those young men who find their path in martyrdom will never take such conferences and their results seriously. They will continue in their struggle until the occupying Israel is removed and world aggression is destroyed.

In another section of his speech he said: An analysis of the budget and the financial situation of the working government of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani in 1989 and 1990, during the first plan for economic, social, and cultural growth, shows positive moves toward achieving economic growth. One of the special qualities of the budget in those years is that they match the goals predicted in the five-year plan and realize the results as predicted in the budget for those two years. In 1989, 101 percent of the income was achieved, and the rate for attaining expenditures was 98.9 percent. In 1990 the rate of plan achievement was 121 percent for incomes and 103.2 percent for expenditures, which indicates a considerable change in the government's financial situation.

Another special quality of the budget for the two years indicated is a rise in income and a severe drop in the deficit. We hope that this trend will continue and we hope that the economic problems of Islamic Iran will soon be over under the guidance of the cabinet and its respected head. To achieve this important goal there should be more encouragement for people to participate and also more coordination within.

The deputy from Tarqabeh and Chenaran in another section of his speech complained about the Ministry of Energy's actions with regard to providing water for the town of Tarqabeh, despite the fact that six years have gone by since the project was analyzed and begun. He suggested that surface waters be controlled, including the streams that flow from the mountains of Binalud and Hezar Masjed. He said that this way the problem of the town's water will be solved and agricultural water will be provided for the areas of Tarqabeh and Chenaran.

He concluded by saying: The Ministry of Interior is responsible for holding elections throughout the country. More than anyone else, it should ensure that there are no shortcomings in the matter. Recently, there unfortunately have been some people in Khorasan Province who are Ministry of Interior employees and who perhaps have the intention of becoming candidates in certain constituencies. By increasing their provocations and by using government-owned vehicles and other facilities, they have started a premature campaign. This issue has caused misunderstandings for people in several ways, and it will have unpleasant consequences.

Hamid-eddin Molla-zehi, deputy from Iranshahr: Every minute that goes by in the life of the Madrid conference, Muslims get more determined to liberate Jerusalem.

The third preagenda speaker was Hamid-eddin Molla-zehi from the constituency of Iranshahr. [passage omitted]

He said: The special attention paid by the respected president and the competent cabinet ministers to the exact execution of the first five-year plan has caused unexpected growth and development in the country.

In this regard he commented on the building of a huge and vital dam in Iranshahr; providing electricity to Iranshahr; the establishment of a 250-megawatt steam power station in this town; improving and paving the road between Iranshahr, Rostamabad, and Bam—it is 350 km long and costs 20 billion rials; and other road construction and repairs in the province. He then thanked the executive officials.

He added: The province of Sistan va Baluchestan has much potential and other special qualities, which is why it has a special place in the nation's economy. For this reason it demands special attention.

Molla-zehi talked about the improvements in local farming caused by the special attention given by the Ministry of Agriculture and said: There was a time in this province when they harvested 600 to 800 kg of wheat from every hectare of land. But at present the harvest of 1,200 kg of wheat from every hectare is amazing, while at the same time the lack of fuel has meant damage to the agricultural sector.

Molah-zehi commented on the problem of providing fuel for the country, especially in his constituency, and asked that something be done about this.

He concluded by saying: If we want to safeguard our regime, the Majles has to have some sort of accounting of the ministers in Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's cabinet. It should strengthen the ones who are supportive of him

and should consider as separate those who somehow cannot reach the level of other cabinet colleagues.

Ahmad Kabiri, deputy from Marvdasht: Today the Muslim people of Iran enjoy the support of the world's Muslims in their continued holy struggle against world aggression.

Ahmad Kabiri was the next preagenda speaker. [passage omitted]

In another section of his speech he said: There are also those who have put all their effort into weakening the most important pillar of the regime after the leadership, which is the Majles.

He explained: Recently, one of the officials responsible for the country's foreign policy, who it seems has solved all foreign policy problems, undertook to give some guidance with regard to internal matters in the country, saying: "If the people find out what is going on in the Majles, they will uproot the Majles."

It is not certain what the Third Majles has done in order to upset some people so strongly. Perhaps the crime committed by the Third Majles was to designate 4 November [anniversary of the takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran] as a national day of struggle against aggression. Perhaps the sin was to propose cutting relations with the British Government because of its support for the heretic Salman Rushdie. Perhaps it is because the Majles has passed a law to step up confrontation against acts of terrorism committed by the United States. Maybe it is because the Majles passed a law in support of the Palestinian people's Islamic revolution and the staging of a glorious conference in support of the Palestinian Islamic revolution. [passage omitted]

The deputy from Marvdasht added: My advice to you who once served in this holy place yourself, as well to those people who think like you, is not to give yourselves the reputation of people who weaken the Majles. A weak Majles means a weak regime, even though it may favor power-hungry people.

In another section of his speech he talked about the issues and differences between Iran and Turkey and said: The Turkish Government has recently undertaken some actions against the Islamic Republic which do not seem proper among diplomatic relations. As a representative of the Muslim people of Iran, I warn the Turkish Government not to abuse the goodwill of the respected officials of the Islamic Republic. They should not weaken and destroy the relations between two Muslim nations with their irresponsible actions for the sake of U.S. interests. If these ties are weakened or damaged, you will suffer more loss. You should know that the patience and goodwill of the officials of the Islamic Republic in the face of such improper actions are not limitless.

In another section of his speech the deputy from Marvdasht said: One cannot change economic reality with political confrontations. It has been some time now since the start of the first five-year plan for economic and social growth. During this period we have achieved some success in areas such as activating production. Although this is not ideal, it is still a hopeful sign. In some other areas the desired results have not been achieved. These include lowering the rate of inflation, lowering the budget deficit, and controlling the amount of cash in circulation. With regard to the rate of inflation and the budget deficit, one must recall that we were in a good position in 1990. But in the current year, unfortunately, the rate of inflation and the budget deficit have increased in the first six months of the year quite against expectations. Keeping in mind that half of the time frame for the first five-year plan has now passed, it is necessary to look into its strengths and its weak points in order to solve its problems and speed up the implementation of its remaining goals.

Mohammad Baqer Baqeri-Nejadiyan-Far, deputy from Kazerun

Mohammad Baqer Baqeri-Nejadiyan-Far, the deputy from Kazerun, was the last preagenda speaker. [passage omitted]

Reply by Raja'i-Khorasani to comments made by deputy from Yazd.

The slogan of peace has been used to commit treason against the Palestinian people. This should not be repeated this time.

Sa'id Raja'i-Khorasani, deputy from Tehran, replied to the comments made on Sunday, 3 November, by Seyyed Mohammad Razavi, deputy from Yazd. He commented on the treasonous Madrid conference and said: I condemn participation in the Madrid conference and all its evil decisions and results. I remind those Islamic nations which took part in that conference that they should not bring about a situation whereby the wicked flag of Zionism would be raised over the capitals of Jordan, Egypt and other Islamic states under the false slogan of peace. The slogan of peace has been used as a weapon of treason against the Palestinian people many times. It should not be repeated this time.

He then talked about the comments made by the deputy from Yazd and said: This gentleman on the one hand praised the statements made by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, then immediately complained about my remarks about our foreign policy with regard to Egypt. Perhaps even now he is not aware that there is no contradiction between my suggestions and the analysis provided by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The political thoughts of Mr. Razavi and his faction are well known to the Iranian people. This is the same line of thought which, at the beginning of the invasion of Kuwait, seriously suggested that the Islamic Republic of Iran enter the war in support of Saddam Husayn. This would have placed our dear Islamic Republic in the midst of a war between two wrongs. Perhaps Mr. Razavi does not realize that support for each of the wrongs would have been a mistake. Fortunately Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani

followed the correct path, which was approved by the great leader, and did not drag the country through a battle between the criminal United States and the blood-sucking Saddam. This safeguarded the Islamic Republic's position of strength. The line of thought that Mr. Razavi supports is the same one which complained about the Supreme National Security Council reestablishing ties with Britain. Messrs. Karrubi, Bayat, and Hashemiyan know who took the first step toward establishing ties with Britain. I support the person who took this timely and correct step, but I am sure that Messrs. Karrubi and the two deputy speakers of the Majles will not be pleased if I announce this brother's name. This is why I will not name that person. I only want to say that Mr. Razavi, who has created a lot of noise and put a lot of so-called and imaginary popular pressure on me, lacks correct political information and vision. He thinks that just because the actions of a government are not approved by the Islamic Republic, relations with that country should be broken. They usually present such bankrupt ideas as basic slogans which match the ideals of the Islamic revolution.

He added: There are realities such as the definitive illegality of the cancerous growth which is the Zionist base occupying Palestine, or the inhuman acts performed by the criminal United States as the frontline state for world aggression against Islam and Muslims. These are truths about which no one has any doubt.

No one has any doubt about condemning the occupying Zionists or the criminal United States, or participation in the Madrid conference. By repeating the condemnation of those two aggressive devils, one cannot just go ahead and suggest any old thing as foreign policy for a country. I think even by quoting the imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited—one cannot suggest anything that would be acceptable to the gentlemen as the country's foreign policy. The imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited—was a very wise and powerful man with a very active and dynamic mind that was aware of political truths in the world. I do not feel one can liken anyone to him. One must speak with care. I think that one must remember what Mowlavi once said: Do not compare your own work to that of good men.

Making a lot of noise is not a secure method for drawing up a country's foreign policy, especially when the country happens to be important and one that carries the enormous mission of defending Islamic values and defending the Palestinians and the Islamic lands which are under occupation. The Islamic Republic's foreign policy has to be drawn up with care, patience, and a correct analysis of realities, not by those methods which are often mentioned within internal factional games.

Raja'i-Khorasani then commented on the discussion on relations with Egypt and said:

1. The government that established relations with the Zionist regime was the government of Anwar Sadat, who was punished for his crimes. The people of Egypt made their point quite clear. Husni Mubarak has received Sadat's actions as a legacy. He was not the main person to recognize Israel or to establish ties with it.

2. The unforgiveable crime of Husni Mubarak has been participation in the bankrupt and treasonous conference in Madrid. In that sense there is no difference between Husni Mubarak and other Arab participants. He, King Husayn of Jordan, our friend Mr. al-Asad, Mr. al-Hirawi from Lebanon, and even the Algerian Government took part in the Madrid conference directly or indirectly. They all have the same political viewpoint and in terms of taking part in the Madrid conference are no different from one another. What does Mr. Razavi suggest? Does he want to break relations with Jordan, Syria, and Algeria as well?

3. The basis on which relations are established—is it just the government or the head of state of each country? Is it right then that our Foreign Ministry should base the manner in which its relations are established with Egypt on the actions of Husni Mubarak? Then what will happen to the 60 million Muslim Egyptians? What will happen to the writers and thinkers who are in favor of the Islamic revolution, who write about it and support it? What will happen to the thousands of Muslim students in Egypt who move in the correct path of the Islamic revolution, who have learned about the honorable principle of the rule of the jurisconsult from the teaching of the imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited—and are thereby followers of the great leader? Should they be forgotten? Does the freedom of the press which exists in Egypt, which is at the disposal of honest and revolutionary people such as Mrs. Safi Naz, not have any value for Mr. Razavi and those who think like him? Should one forget 60 million Muslim Egyptians because of wrong and treasonous policies followed by Husni Mubarak? In determining the type of relations that one should have with Egypt, should we consider Husni Mubarak or the Muslim combatants in that country?

Egypt has a very rich Islamic culture and one must think about the role that Egypt plays even now in publishing Islamic ideas and sources. This is exactly what I suggested to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: that they should not base their decision on Husni Mubarak but rather on the 60 million Muslim Egyptians, the sacrificing students, the dedicated journalists like Mrs. Safri Naz, those same religious brothers and sisters who participated in the conference on Palestine, and not on the actions of Husni Mubarak. Was this the wrong suggestion? Mr. Razavi should ask the Egyptian people to see if they agree with him or with me.

The speaker talked about establishing ties with Morocco and said: The high-ranking delegation that came here from Morocco to take part in the conference to defend the Islamic revolution of the Palestinian people and to support the Palestinian uprising was made up of all the factions from the Moroccan parliament and all the political parties in that country. In a symbolic way they represented all the people of Morocco, and they brought

with them the message of the Moroccan people with regard to reestablishing ties with the Islamic Republic. I ask Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani to review their message in a positive light.

The deputy from Tehran continued his remarks and said: Apartheid has been dismantled in South Africa. South Africa has officially demolished the policy of apartheid. It is possible that traces of this policy remain within some groups, but those are not the official views of the government in that country. If we were truly against apartheid, then we must support the government that dismantled it. We must think about establishing ties with that country again, otherwise we would go against our previous policy.

At the end of his speech Raja'i-Khorasani reiterated: At the end I must express regret at the dissent that came about during yesterday's demonstrations. I suggest that those groups who claim to be antiaggressors should act in accordance with the directives of the propaganda bureau that has been designated by the regime.

(Objections from Mr. Khalkhali and others.)

After the speech by Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani, Mr. Razavi, the deputy from Yazd, issued a warning in accordance with the internal Majles regulations which the Majles speaker rejected. Then Mr. Karrubi made a short statement and said: Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani was a little unkind in a sense that it would have been better if he had talked about the speech made by Mr. Razavi. Mr. Ravazi made that remark, which was very weak, but I am the official here and I must observe a neutral position. This is why I told Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani to speak. It would have been proper for him to speak for 10 minutes on the speech made by Mr. Razavi, which was about the issue of Egypt. But Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani was a little unkind and went into the issue of factions. He mentioned two points which were outside the main discussion. One was to talk about factionalism and those who had said that we should support Saddam. Well, brothers, now that you have mentioned it, I have to say something here. With regard to issues, the opinions that were expressed were personal and will not be considered as those belonging to any side. These same views were discussed at the Friday prayers. You were talking about those gentlemen who made those comments at the Friday prayers in Qom and Shiraz. The second point is that at the end, again instead of giving a reply to Mr. Razavi, you talked about the propaganda bureau and the matter of 4 November. Now brother, you have expressed your view. My view is that this is a matter for students and it should be handed over to the students to decide for themselves. [passage omitted]